

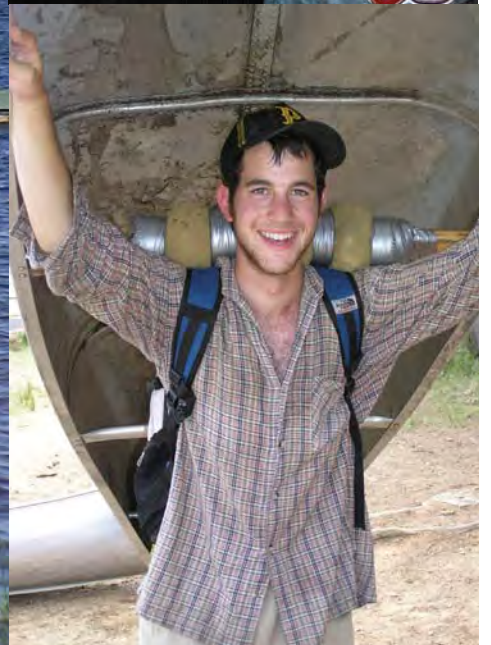
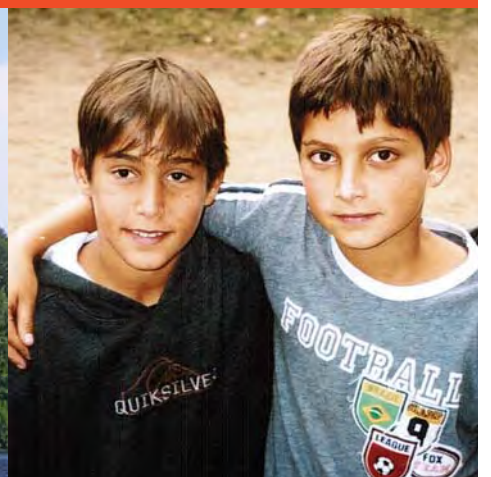
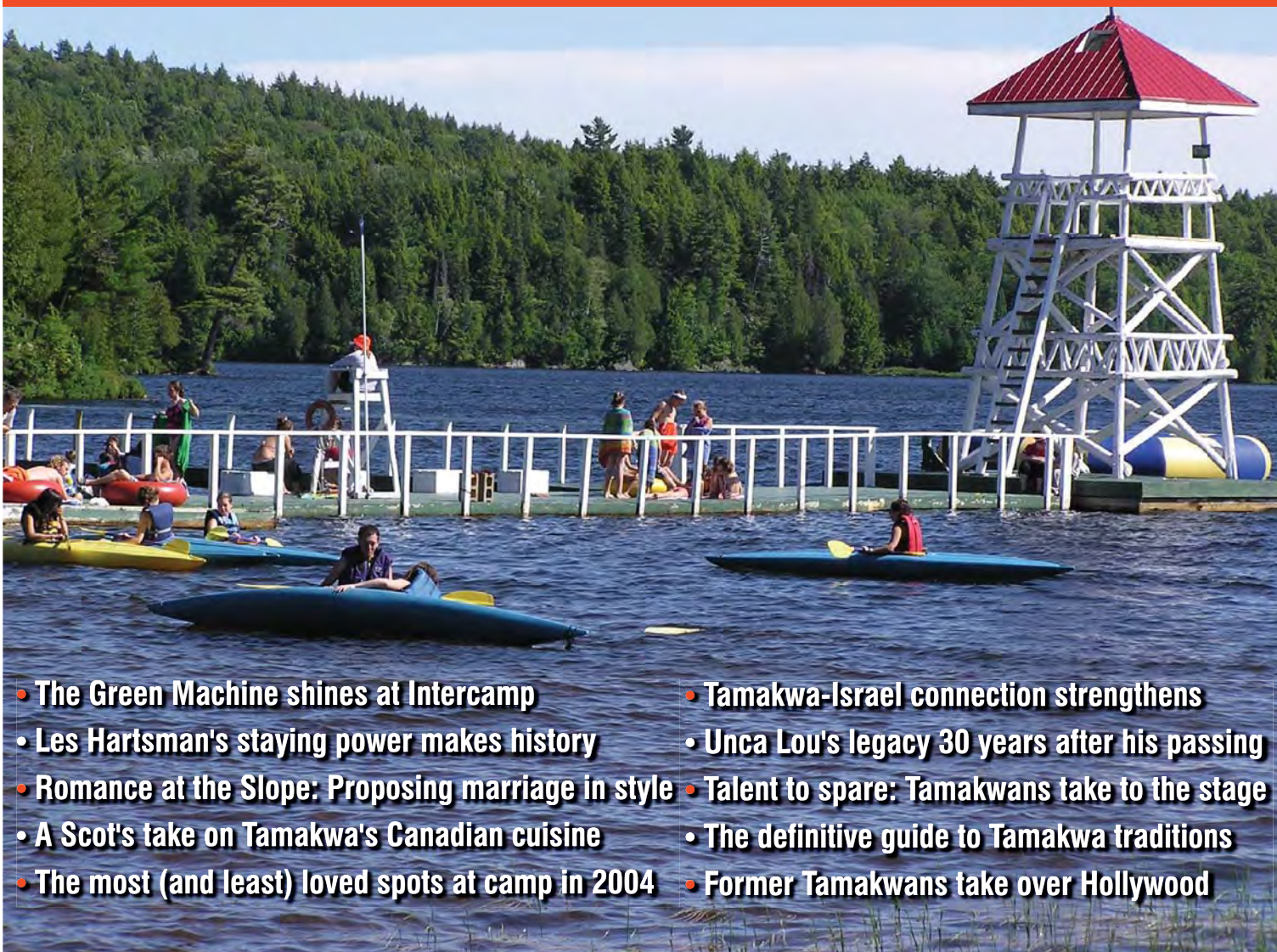
South Tea Echo



THE VOICE OF CAMP TAMAKWA • ALGONQUIN PARK



THE BEST OF SUMMER 2004



- The Green Machine shines at Intercamp
- Les Hartsman's staying power makes history
- Romance at the Slope: Proposing marriage in style
- A Scot's take on Tamakwa's Canadian cuisine
- The most (and least) loved spots at camp in 2004
- Tamakwa-Israel connection strengthens
- Unca Lou's legacy 30 years after his passing
- Talent to spare: Tamakwans take to the stage
- The definitive guide to Tamakwa traditions
- Former Tamakwans take over Hollywood

A new tradition takes hold

In a short time, the Echo has become an annual fixture on the Tamakwa calendar

The inaugural issue of The South Tea Echo in 2002 broke new ground. It captured the events and personalities of the summer while highlighting timeless stories about Tamakwa and its traditions that link current-day Tamakwans to generations of alumni. For all Tamakwans, the introduction of the Echo was a true treasure.

The reception and success of the first issue made it a tough act to follow. The second one in 2003 became all the more of a challenge in order to meet the expectations of our ever-hungry Tamakwa audience. Much to our delight, the second issue of the Echo, tagged the "encore" edition, again surpassed expectations. Through its mix of articles focusing on both Tamakwa's present and past, an eye-catching layout and beautiful photos, Issue 2 had a major impact on the Tamakwa community.

Amid great anticipation, we now proudly present to Tamakwans everywhere, of all ages, Issue 3 of the Echo. Like a powerful "Woof Woof" cheer bellowed out by a Slope-full of campers, every additional Echo makes us prouder and prouder.

For the two previous issues, Robert Sarner, the founding Editor-in-Chief, was formidably challenged with very little resources to pull off a project of this magnitude. In camp terms, a publication such as the Echo is incomparable. We have been fortunate to have Robert, his wife Galya, and their three children, Aviv, Shani, and Etye as part of our camp family since 2002.

In the first two years, Robert came with his family from their home in Jerusalem, Israel to be with us the entire summer. Not

withstanding a bare-bones budget and limited technology and an already committed reporting staff, the first two issues of the Echo were the product of Robert being in residence at Tamakwa throughout the summers of 2002 and 2003.

This year was different. Just before the 2004 summer season, the entire Sarner family uprooted themselves from their life in Israel, relocating to North America to reside in Robert's former domicile, Toronto, Ontario. It's difficult for any of us to fully understand the magnitude of a transition with so many challenges of an entire family moving from the Middle East to North America. Finding

a home, locating and properly assimilating their children into proper schools, meeting new friends, seeking and establishing a new professional endeavor and livelihood were all part of Robert and Galya's "landscape", as they attempted to put their new life together like a puzzle, piece by piece. Fortunately, the transition for the children was facilitated by their returning to Tamakwa for their third summer, which had already become their home away from home. Robert was fortunate to be able to convert his experience and expertise as a journalist and TV news producer and anchorman in Israel to becoming the Director of Communication and Public Affairs for Roots Canada.

With all that was on Robert's plate during the summer, he and Galya found a weekend here and a weekend there to spend at camp, aspiring to capture both the tangible and intangible stories of Tamakwa 2004 with the hope of producing a third issue of the Echo. Under the best of circumstances, this is a formidable challenge. This time, it was nothing short of a miracle and is a testament to Robert's determination, talent and commitment to successfully publish this issue. Fortunately, Robert and Galya were still able on many Friday nights to conduct their now famous Israel and Middle East Hobby Hubs (discussion groups) and the occasional Middle Eastern Food Fest of Galya's that everyone thoroughly enjoys.

While the Echo is but a summer camp publication, it's a substantial undertaking not just during the summer, but in the ensuing months back in the city. It entails writing and editing articles, getting notoriously recalcitrant writers to hand in their promised articles, screening and gathering photos, overseeing the layout, and getting everything print ready. It's a tall order but when we looked over the page proofs of Issue 3, we saw that like its two predecessors, Robert succeeded in producing another wonderful collection of memories



HEARD IN MAIN CAMP

A sense of place

We asked campers about the spots in camp they loved most and least in 2004 and those that remained a source of mystery for them

LYSI LAX, 16, CIT, Toronto, ON, 8th year at Tamakwa.

"My favorite spot is the bench near the water fountain in Main Camp. From there you can see the entire lake including the trees and islands. The view makes me feel how privileged I am to be in one of the most beautiful places in the world. When I sit there, I'm just full of awe at the beauty of this place. My least favorite spot -- the office porch -- is nearby but it's a completely different reality. I've never been on the office porch for a good reason before. The most mysterious spot is the Lone Pine. I've always wondered how it got like that and how it hangs over the water."

SHELBY SILVER, 9, Trailblazer 2, Huntington Woods, MI, 2nd year.

"The place I enjoyed the most this summer was the Ropes Course. I loved climbing up there and doing the Zip Line. For just hanging out, the place I liked best was my cabin because all my stuff is there and you get to scare people when they come in the door. My least favorite spot was Half-Court because I'm really bad at it. The most mysterious spot was the kitchen because no one is allowed in there except the staff, even though after we did a kitchen raid it became a lot less mysterious."

ADAM KLEIN, 12, Ranger 5, West Bloomfield, MI, 6th year.

"My favorite places are the Platform because I love basketball and the kayak docks because I'm a good kayaker. Also, I like to be at the Slope because it's a cool place to chill out. The place I don't like is the Swim Docks because I'm one of the worst swimmers at camp. The place I understand the least is Robbie's Point. Why would girls shower in the lake there when they have showers in their cabins. The other spot is Jerry's Island because nobody goes there."

JORDAN STANTON, 8, Forester 2, Toronto, ON, 2nd year.

"My favorite spot is Chicken Boarding. It's a lot of fun because you can also do surfing with it. When it comes to hanging out, I prefer the Swim Dock because

it has such nice water and I can just stare at it. Main Camp is great because of the Nok Hockey tables. My least favorite is the ball field, especially at night. That's because of all the animals near there which, for all I know, may have rabies. The most mysterious place is the Head Staff Dining Room. That's where the counselors go for cookies for camper snack. I've never been there because campers can be suspended for that. I've wondered if maybe certain staff are keeping some weird stuff there. You never know."

IZZY MECKLER, 11, Ranger 3, New Canaan, CT, 4th year.

"My favorite spot at camp is my cabin. It's a fun place to chill. I also like being at the Swim Docks because the water there is so nice. But I really can't stand the ball field. It's way too buggy and far away. For me Suicide Biffy is the most mysterious place. It's gross and it's in such a shady part of Boys' Hill."

TARA LENGYEL, 14, 49er 3, Toronto, ON, 7th year.

"The Slope is the place I like most at camp. It's so pretty, looking out on to the lake. It's really nice to be there together as a camp. But I also like being there when there aren't a lot of people around. It's a good place to sit and think about camp. The worst place is the Clinic because I don't like to be sick and to miss things at camp. The most mysterious spot is the Cheers cabin which I've never entered before. You're never allowed in Cheers because there's a lot of secret stuff and planning going on there for Colour War and all-day programs."

JORDAN BARPAL, 15, Voyageur 6, Birmingham, MI, 3rd year.

"My favorite spot is the Platform because that's where a lot of my friends hang out. You can do a lot of things there, like basketball and hockey. My least favorite places are archery and the ball field because they're such a long walk. It's a pain in the butt. The most mysterious spot is the abandoned van stuck on the way to the ball field which looks creepy."

MOLLY BINDER, 11, Pioneer 3/4, Los Angeles, CA, 3rd year.

"My favorite place is the Rec Hall because it has so many fun props and costumes. It's such a fun place to be. You get to do plays and watch movies there if you've been good. It's very, very cool just to be on stage. It's exciting to be able to perform a song or say a few lines there or watch others perform. My least favorite spot is the biffy. It's very stinky and people need to remember to wash. The most mysterious spot is the top of the Eye-full Tower because I've never been up there to see the view from there. Also, the inside of the Tuck Shop. They never seem to let me see through the window when I'm getting tuck. I really want to see what's inside there."

EYAL MAMISTVALOV, 13, Voyageur 2, Or Yehuda, Israel, 1st year.

"The place dearest to me at camp is the woodshop because I connect the most to woodworking. The place outside I like the most is the Slope. The view is so beautiful it's hard to put it into words. It's simply paradise. The place I like the least is the Clinic. You're only there when you're sick. The other place I don't like is the Dining Hall because we're the last to be served and by then the food is cold. The most mysterious is the Rec Hall. Every evening you walk by and see the CITs and staff inside and I've always wondered what they are doing there."

NATALIE KAISER, 14, 49er-7, Chicago, IL, 8th year.

"My favorite spot at camp is the canoe docks. It's so relaxing down there and I love canoeing. I also like to hang out at the swings not far from the office. If there's one place that I try to avoid it's the ball field. It's so far away and it gets really hot there. The most mysterious place is the area between Half Court and Outdoor Fun where there's lots of raspberry bushes and stuff. I sometimes see kids coming out of there and I don't understand where they're coming from."

- Interviews by Robert Sarner



Issue 1, Fall 2002



Issue 2, Fall 2003

South Tea Echo TAMAKWA
THE VOICE OF CAMP TAMAKWA ALUMNI AND STAFF

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The summer at a glance

A selective listing of the major events and main highlights at camp in 2004.

JUNE

- Fri., June 18** - Head Staff arrive for Pre-Pre-Camp.
- Sun., June 20** - Activity Leaders arrive for Pre-Pre-Camp.
- Tues., June 22** - Counselors, trippers and specialists arrive for Pre-Camp.
- Sun., June 27** - Campers arrive; Cabin Night; Noonway.
- Mon., June 28** - White Cap tests; Beaver Council nominations; Landsports Twilight Activities; Staff Show (evening program).
- Tues., June 29** - Beaver Council Elections; Section Night.
- Wed., June 30** - World Rock Paper Scissors Society (All-day program) - Rock, Paper and Scissors (of course).

JULY

- Thurs., July 1** - Canada Day; Tamakwa C.S.I. (evening program).
- Fri., July 2** - Friday night services; Hobby Hubs.
- Sat., July 3** - T'Apprentice (evening program).
- Sun., July 4** - US Independence Day; Section Night.
- Mon., July 5** - Girls' 13-day trip departs; Monday cookouts and camp-wide campfire.
- Tues., July 6** - How Well Do You Know Your Counselor?, (Beaver Council evening program); Tamagama.
- Wed., July 7** - 15-day trips depart; Treasure Island Swim; Liar's Club and The Dating Game (evening program).
- Thurs., July 8** - Camp Walden Intercamp at Tamakwa; Battle of the Elements (evening program).
- Fri., July 9** - 13-day trips depart; JT Triathlon; Friday night services; Hobby Hubs.
- Sat., July 10** - Presentation of *Beauty and the Beast*.
- Sun., July 11** - JT Changeover; Tamakwa World Records (evening program).
- Mon., July 12** - 10-day trips depart; Monday cookouts and camp-wide campfire.
- Tues., July 13** - Treasure Island Swim; Rush Tamakwa (CIT evening program).
- Wed., July 14** - Intercamp at Camp Manitou; Halloween (evening program).
- Thurs., July 15** - Camper Triathlon; 80s Theme Day; Jared Florence Dance (evening program).
- Fri., July 16** - Girl's 13-day trip returns; All-day Surf and Sail; Friday night services; Hobby Hubs.
- Sat., July 17** - Talent Show (evening program).
- Sun., July 18** - Section Night.
- Mon., July 19** - Monday cookouts and camp-wide campfire.
- Tues., July 20** - Surf and Sail Races; Tamakwa Highland Games (evening program).
- Wed., July 21** - 10-day, 13-day and 15-day trips return; Staff Triathlon; Air Bands (evening program).
- Thurs., July 22** - The Battle for the Olympic Bid (Mini-Colour War) - China, Great Britain, Mexico and Russia.
- Fri., July 23** - Pack-out Day; Mini-Banquet; Friday night services; Presentation of *Grease*.
- Sat., July 24** - 1st-month campers depart; Visitors' Day; Flotilla (evening program).
- Sun., July 25** - 2nd-month campers arrive; Cabin Night.
- Mon., July 26** - White Cap Tests; Beaver Council nominations; Tamakwa Masters Frisbee Golf (evening program).
- Tues., July 27** - 17-day Temagami trips depart; Beaver Council Elections; Wakonda's Palace Casino (evening program).
- Wed., July 28** - 15-day trips depart; The Amazing Alphabet Soup Race (evening program).
- Thurs., July 29** - Battle of the Sexes (All-day program).
- Fri., July 30** - Friday night services; Hobby Hubs.
- Sat., July 31** - Amy Sky Songwriters' Night (evening program).

AUGUST

- Sun., Aug 1** - Section Night.
- Mon., Aug 2** - Monday cookouts and camp-wide campfire.
- Tues., Aug 3** - Game Shows by section (CIT evening program).
- Wed., Aug 4** - Camp Manitou Intercamp at Tamakwa; Street Smarts (evening program).
- Thurs., Aug 5** - 13-day trips depart; Intercamp at Camp Walden; Around the World in 80 Minutes (evening program).
- Fri., Aug 6** - Treasure Island Swim; Friday night services; Hobby Hubs.
- Sat., Aug 7** - JT Triathlon; Presentation of *Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory*.
- Sun., Aug 8** - 10-day trips depart; JT Changeover; Watersports Intercamp at Camp Arowhon; Camp Arowhon Staff Basketball at Tamakwa; A Bug's Life (All-day program) - Ant, Bees, Black Flies and Mosquitos.
- Mon., Aug 9** - Monday cookouts and camp-wide campfire.
- Tues., Aug 10** - Topsy Turvey (theme day); Tamakwa Gladiators (evening program).
- Wed., Aug 11** - 15-day trips return; Sadie Hawkins (Beaver Council evening program).
- Thurs., Aug 12** - 17-day Temagami trips return; Tamakwa's Survivor Day.
- Fri., Aug 13** - Bar Mitzvahs of Samantha Florence, Kyle Goldenberg, Rob Herzig and Ali Schram.
- Sat., Aug 14** - Camper Triathlon; Section Night.
- Sun., Aug 15** - Staff Triathlon; Surf and Sail Races; Sunday Night Live (evening program).
- Mon., Aug 16** - Monday cookouts and camp-wide campfire.
- Tues., Aug 17** - 10-day and 13-day trips return; Presentation of *A Chorus Line*; late-night Colour War break on Transportation Hill.
- Wed., Aug 18** - A Pirate's Life for Me (Colour War) - Barbary, Buccaneer, Marooner and Privateer.
- Thurs., Aug 19** - Colour War continues; Staff Pizza Night in Main Camp.
- Fri., Aug 20** - Pack-out Day; Super Mario Brothers (CIT Banquet).
- Sat., Aug 21** - Camp ends as Tamakwans leave for home.
- Thurs., Aug 26** - Alumni Post Camp begins.
- Sun., Aug 29** - Alumni Post Camp ends.

A modest proposal

Perfectly done, just when the bride-to-be least expected it

It was just another normal evening at camp for Art Director Lori Cohen. This summer, she was without her boyfriend Matt Herman - a former Tamakwa counselor - who had to stay home in Detroit to work. So one fine July evening, Lori spent her after dinner quiet time on the Slope. Camp Director Craig Perlmutter said he needed to talk to her there about her program. She wasn't needed elsewhere, and Matt wasn't around...or was he?

From around the bend came the pointer, driven by Libby Sadick von Neumann. Her passenger wasn't identifiable...until the pointer neared and docked right at the Slope. Matt Herman!!! What are YOU doing here? You're supposed to be working in the city!

Matt emerged from the boat, met a now stunned and surprised Lori at the bottom of the Slope. He immediately got down on one knee, and... right then and there... he proposed marriage to her.

Craig and a few others who had been tipped off knew to be



on the Slope to watch this romantic moment unfold. Lori was absolutely caught by surprise, but thanks to Libby, Lori was also caught on film for all of you - and Lori and Matt's children someday - to behold. And that includes the priceless reaction of Lori's aunt, Marilyn Mendelson.

Matt said he'd been planning this for a year. It was worth the waiting and came off without a hitch. (The hitch comes later, when they tie the knot.) What did Lori say when Matt popped the question? "Is this a joke?" "You're kidding, right?" Then she recalled, "Eventually I got around to saying 'Y-y-yes'."

And Matt, when asked about the wedding date, answered, "I dunno. We haven't talked about it yet."

What about Marilyn, who was left virtually speechless? Marilyn is not accustomed to being in the dark about anything, family-wise or camp-wise. She's also not accustomed to being at a loss for words.

- DAVE BALE



Shalom Tamakwa

Second Project Israel-Tamakwa proves as successful as the first. BY DAVE BALE

Anyone who has own El Al to Israel knows that when the plane lands at Ben Gurion Airport, passengers celebrate the safe landing in the Holy Land by breaking into spontaneous applause and singing.

Well, there was a lot of clapping and singing coming the opposite way too for some campers who came from Israel this past August to attend Tamakwa. It may not have begun right at the Toronto airport when the travel-weary kids landed after their 12-hour flight from home, but Liraz Cohen, Maayan Cohen, Eyal Mamistvalov and Chen Raz were introduced to that old Tamakwa spirit the minute their pointer ride pulled up to camp's shore.

The Israeli campers (girls aged 15 and boys aged 13) were welcomed by cheering campers and staff singing everything from "We Welcome, We Welcome You" to "Heveinu Shalom Aleichem". It was to this warm demonstration of support that the Israelis began their four-week sojourn in this strange, far-off, very green, very lush place they'd only heard about and seen in pictures: Canada.

Compared to the intensity and daily stress of Israeli life during the recent years, Tamakwa was - as one of them put it - "Gan Eden" (Garden of Eden). A respite from tensions in their homeland - where the most basic activities like riding a bus, going shopping, or dining in a restaurant are considered risky - is exactly what Tamakwa had in mind in initiating "Project Israel-Tamakwa" two years ago for the summer of 2003. In partnership with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, we created the project to sponsor a group of Israeli children and give them the opportunity to experience the care-free, fun-filled, adventurous time of their lives that sums up a Tamakwa summer.

For children coming from the working class area of Or Yehuda, just outside of Tel Aviv, this opportunity was one they could only dream about. But the dream was made a reality, thanks to the incredible show of support and generosity from the Tamakwa community. The project's basic ideal obviously resonated far and wide. In the quest to sponsor a new group of Israeli campers for a second year of the project - the summer of 2004 - the response from campers, families, staff, and alumni was overwhelming.

Like the group that preceded them the year before, Liraz, Maayan, Eyal and Chen had never been in a totally English-speaking environment. Never before had they experienced anything like this.

"At Tamakwa," said Liraz Cohen, "I had the time of my life. For the first time, I learned to kayak and canoe. I also learned fishing and skills in the wood shop."

She also arrived at camp virtually with no swimming skills. In one of the more memorable episodes of Tamakwa determination, and motivated by the privilege of spending a summer on the shores of South Tea, Liraz doggedly pursued and - by summer's end - achieved her White Cap swim level.

In Israel, camping and scouting are the norm for most youth, but traversing the lakes and trails of a lush wilderness like Algonquin Park is unthinkable. Canoeing in the Park is a sharp contrast to hiking in desert wadis of the Negev. The most obvious difference: water, lots and lots of water. Israel has only one lake, Algonquin has 2,000. So paddling for five days across lake after lake was a real first for 13-year-old Eyal Mamistvalov. "The most special thing I did

at Tamakwa was go on a canoe trip," said Eyal, "I had lots of fun and it made me stronger. For example, to keep going and not to give up in the middle of a long portage."

The total number of Israeli campers in August was actually 11, making it one of the largest inter-

Continued on page 15

Of collection and recollection

It was a banner year for new additions to the Tamakwa Museum's displays of life as lived on the shores of South Tea.

This year, the curator of the Tamakwa Museum is Brandon Tobin. He will be giving tours of the museum in its underground shelter on Adventure Island every day except Good Friday and Schlect Tuesday. Thanks to our hardworking anthropological surveyors, the museum's collection greatly expanded in 2004.

Here are some of the many new items now on exhibit from the past summer:

- A cell phone in a Ziploc bag
- The Cell Phone form
- Alistair's kilt
- Pillow of the Day



- Dean Sallan's "Sponge Bob" toque
- Zack Faintuch's "talking" key chain
- Marilyn's empty ashtray (held over from previous year)
- A plate of Galya's Moroccan lemon salad
- The complete array of coffee tumblers at the Head Staff table

- Dara's duty grid
- The underwater thermometer at Boys Dock (showing a permanent 68 degrees)
- Any one of Doctor Marzo's Buffalo Bills shirts
- The HobieCat's starboard hull (with the new hardware)
- An array of all the sail boat parts missing this year
- The arsenal of barrel packs
- Alex Stringer's sax
- Jesse Gold's guitar
- Any one of Boys Camp's low rider basketball shorts worn at half-tush height
- The satellite phone used by Marla Brand from the Natch
- The Ring: when Matt proposed to Lori
- List of Slan duties
- Two paddle blanks Dougall and Jon Cooper are still waiting for
- T-shirt from "Jared Florence night"



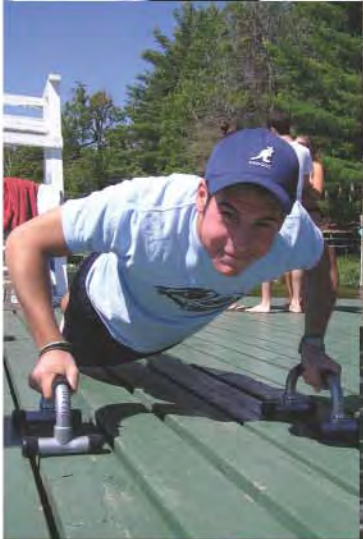
- One of the colorfully painted Nok-Hockey tables
- The photo of Guy Tetreault and Larry David
- The "muscle" padding worn by Conner Sakwa as Gaston in Beauty and the Beast
- An MPD or Manual Propulsion Device (aka canoe paddle)
- The bear trap, displayed next to an overturned trash barrel with candy wrappers spilling out.
- The handles on Marilyn's cupboards (that took six years to be put on)
- The ceramic chess set made by Forester 2 at Clay
- Dr. Dorman's giant coffee tumblers
- A pair of Ugg boots
- That prototype sample shuffleboard cue made of white plumbing pipe
- The Mutiny on Big Porky transcripts
- All the new clocks that kept popping up in the office and staff dining hall
- Eminem signed poster "to the boys and girls of Camp Tamakwa"
- Craig's dreadlocks
- That red ball whipping device to play "fetch" with Desi, Duncan and K.C. the dogs
- A Nalgene bottle hooked on a carabiner
- PH's washer-toss cans (with half the washers missing)
- Any one of Natalie the baker's baked goods: cookies, challah, cake, you name it.
- Alex Shiff's broken tooth
- X-rays of Joelle Hecker's swollen knee and sore back
- One of the many broken braces that Vic cut out of kids' mouths
- The old phone booth (on the Bayview porch)
- The Bayview Beam
- Staff poker chip suitcase
- One of the 750 kosher hotdogs from the "Hermelin" hot dog roast on Visiting Day

Guess who! Place a face from way back



LOOKING IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR: A golden oldie culled from the Tamakwa archives deep in the camp vault: Can you identify the three people in this photograph taken in 1960? Here's a hint: You'll have to be pretty crafty to figure it out. (For the answer, turn to page 14.)

HIGHLIGHTS 2004



MOVEMENT AT THE TOP



Passing the torch...

And the movie projector and videocassette too. Thoughts on moving on. BY DAVE BALE

I was nine years old when Lou Handler walked into our home schlepping his cumbersome movie projector and huge screen into our living room. He showed my family a film about this far off magical place, up in Algonquin. Little did I know then what that visit would mean for the path my life would take. My sister Deni was the family pioneer (Pioneer 3, to be specific), followed by me, and later by our brother Andy. Tamakwese (i.e. "How How", "Biffy", "schlect", et al) has been a second official language in the Bale family most of our lives.

Just like campers and staff today, as a kid I was smitten by the Tamakwa bug. I counted down the days till camp. My room was adorned with camp photos and "Tamakwa-fernalnia". In the winters, my daydreams transported me to the view of South Tea Lake from the top of the Slope. My dearest and most enduring friendships have had their origins at camp. What Tamakwa has meant to me is not that different than what it has meant to many of you.

But I was additionally blessed with the opportunity to turn a passion into a lifestyle when I became a co-owner with Vic Norris (the most enduring of those friendships)

in our partnership with Howard Perlmutter. And 20 years after Lou walked into my living room, I was schlepping that same projector and screen around town, perpetuating his dream... introducing Tamakwa to a new generation of campers. (Thankfully, that projection equipment was soon technologically replaced by the much lighter and portable videocassette, which is one explanation for why Lou's muscles were so much more massive than mine. That he was also a former prize-fighter may have been another.)

Carrying on the work of Lou, his sister Esta, and camp director Kal Bandalene -- the people who were my mentors and inspiration -- has been a profound privilege. Perpetuating their vision - and sharing that mission with Vic - has been a labour of love, not to mention just plain fun. That mission would not have been possible without the support of Howard or the tireless devotion of Marilyn Mendelson and David Stringer. I am grateful for their camaraderie and I feel so fortunate to have been part of the team that has kept alive the Tamakwa spirit for the past 30 years. As well, I've been blessed with the friendship of the rest of the year-round team: Craig Perlmutter, Ken Elder, Len Giblin, Libby Sadick and Ric von Neumann, Leslie Hartsman, Candi and Ron Sherman, and Sheila Tyner. Some of them, I had the added pleasure of seeing blossom from campers to positions of leadership.

I've enjoyed a close connection with camp parents, many of whom I remember as campers or counselors themselves. I have

appreciated their support and feedback, be it positive or constructively critical. To hear from a parent about the growth and self-confidence they see in their child after a Tamakwa summer is the fruit of our labour, exceeded only by witnessing that growth in the kids firsthand. "Da keeds" have kept me going, providing me with a constant source of energy, pride, fun, and a feeling of eternal youth.

Tamakwa has been a home for Janie, our kids, and me. Some of our most significant family milestones have taken place here. Janie and I got married here. Ari and Yafa have been weaned on Tamakwa summers, starting with their first weeks of life. We've watched them both develop and thrive from all the love and stimulation here.

Though I am moving on from camp ownership to pursue other



endeavours, this is by no means farewell. Our children will continue as campers. I intend to remain part of the Tamakwa family, albeit in a different way. One of the unique aspects of Tamakwa has always been reverence for its history. In that spirit, we are blessed with the opportunity to have a cabin on camp

property and spend as much time there as our new life and other commitments will allow. The proximity will allow me to stay connected with the campers, staff, and the life of Tamakwa. In an unofficial capacity, I will avail myself to Vic, Craig and the rest of the camp administration as an ambassador of Tamakwa, consulting and assisting where and when I can. Most of all, the friendships will prevail.

Since the announcement, Janie and I have been overwhelmed by all the kind words and heartfelt tributes we've received by many of you. We are very appreciative. It's an emotional transition for us, but we make it with optimism and confidence that the transition for Tamakwa will be smooth and relatively seamless. Tamakwa's strength is in its team and that team is intact. Vic will continue to provide the same leadership that he has provided for the past 30 years and that has given Tamakwa its high standing in the international camping community. Marilyn is Tamakwa's foundational rock. And with Craig, Tamakwa's future is very bright. There is no more loyal and devoted Tamakwan to come up the ranks with the required passion and competence for the job than Craig. If a torch (as well as the movie projector and videocassette) is being passed, it couldn't be passed to more capable hands.

I look forward to supporting them and the rest of the team...and to meeting again with Tamakwans of every generation, whether it's in the city or up in Algonquin.

A season of change

In the fall, as part of Tamakwa's on-going evolution, things shifted on the ownership side. BY VIC NORRIS

It's often said (and I mean often) that Tamakwa is a "people" camp. Indeed, each camp summer has its own unique personality shaped by the campers and staff. And, of course, historically, Tamakwa has been shaped by many thousands of campers and staff and of course a select few who have been responsible principally for perpetuating the Tamakwa tradition.

For the last three decades, Dave Bale has been one of these key people. He's been one of the principal architects of Tamakwa whose tangible and intangible contributions have helped Tamakwa become one of the top camps in North America. As most of you know by now, Dave is

moving on from camp ownership to pursue other endeavors.

I would be remiss by not candidly acknowledging the immeasurable ways in which Dave has touched my life, my family, and certainly every camper and staff member during his tenure as co-owner and co-director. I embrace wholeheartedly every expression in what Dave has written elsewhere on this page. As you will note from Dave's piece, this is not goodbye.

In true Tamakwa style, Dave and his lovely family -- Janie, Ari, and Yafa -- will maintain a residence at camp and will stay connected to Tamakwa's campers and staff and participate in programs whenever possible. He will remain a part of Tamakwa's

landscape and our ambassador for life, albeit, in an unofficial capacity. Most importantly, Dave will stay dearest of friends to not only me, but to so many others, and of course, the administrative team that, along with Dave, has been responsible for Tamakwa's success over the decades.

It is, however, with a tremendous amount of excitement that I announce Craig Perlmutter has acquired Dave Bale's ownership interest in Camp Tamakwa and will continue in his role as Camp Director. Craig returned to Tamakwa three summers ago as Camp Director and has infused camp with a renewed sense of passion, energy, spirit, and

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Making the transition

A new challenge and a dream come true. BY CRAIG PERLMUTTER

What an incredible month of excitement it was after the news spread of my ownership interest in Camp Tamakwa. I was both overwhelmed and humbled by so many Tamakwans expressing their congratulations and best wishes of having attained a lifelong dream and renewing my commitment to future generations of Tamakwa campers and staff.

I've learned so much as a camper growing up on the shores of South Tea Lake. I've come to understand the impact that summer camps have on so many children. But our summer camp, Camp Tamakwa, has a different feeling, a different magical feeling, which is almost impossible to describe.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Vic and Dave for taking me under their wings three years ago and mentoring me through every aspect of running camp. They have been my mentors and important role models since I was a young camper (a.k.a. "Schmutz" - for being the dirtiest camper in camp), as a staff member for six years, and during my last three years in my new role as Camp Director.

I am thrilled to work closely with my new partner, Vic, and to continue under his tutelage to learn more of the day to day and year round intricacies of the camp business. My wife, Margot, and I are overjoyed to share this very



special place with Vic and his family.

Dave has been a role model for countless campers and staff who have learned

so much under his leadership and for that we are all so very lucky. I wish Dave the best of success in his future endeavors and look forward to our continuing friendship and to sharing many more Tamakwa golden days with him and his family.

Of course, we all know Marilyn Mendelson is a mentor to everyone at camp and certainly she has been so for me on a daily basis for the past three years.

Camp Tamakwa has meant the world to me and my entire family for most of our lives. It was with incredible foresight that my parents, Howard and Carol, who were at camp in the '50s, became partners with Vic and Dave some 25 years ago assuring the continued vitality and success of Tamakwa. Both of my brothers, Lloyd and Michael, were Tamakwans in the '70s and '80s, and now the third generation of Perlmutter has hit Tamakwa running.

I share in the historical reverence for my predecessors at camp, particularly its founders Lou Handler (and Esta Kraft) and

Omer Stinger. I am committed to leading Tamakwa through the next generation of campers and to perpetuate the well-deserved legacy of Unca Lou.

Margot and I had the great fortune of meeting at Tamakwa in 1986 and could not be more exuberant about having the opportunity to embrace and integrate camp into our daily lives. With the inspiration of Vic, Dave, and my parents, Margot and I are committed to the history, traditions and future of Tamakwa and look forward to getting even better acquainted with Tamakwa's alumni and families.

Due in large part to Vic's tenure at camp and continuing leadership as Senior Director, this transition will be essentially seamless. Together we will ensure the shores of South Tea remain vibrant and filled with safe and happy campers for years to come. We will continue to broaden the nurturing experience for our campers and the educational leadership experience for our staff members. We will pool our energy and passion for camp, along with our incredibly supportive and talented year-round staff, to improve camp year after year. This to perpetuate one of the most unique places and opportunities anywhere for campers and staff to experience youthful exhilaration, adventure, and build lifelong friendships.

Moose stew anyone?

It's hard to know what to expect in terms of Tamakwa food when you've lived your whole life in Scotland and you've never been to camp before. BY ALISTAIR INCH



In mid-June, as I was tucking into my final bowl of Scotch broth the night before I left the bonny bonny banks of Scotland for the even bonnier banks of South Tea, something dawned on me. What do Canadians actually eat? Or, more to the point, what do Canadians at camp eat? Even more to the point, what do Tamakwans eat in Algonquin Park? Was there such a thing as camp cuisine? I was suddenly seized by images of moose stew, beaver cutlets and bear burgers swirling in my brain.

To say I was slightly concerned is a huge understatement. I thought back to my only previous trip to Canada, a rugby tour of Ontario in 1998. Memories were slightly hazy to say the least.

One culinary moment from that visit to Canada did stand out however. I was staying with a very nice family, and one evening as we sat down to a dinner of fried chicken and mashed potatoes, I also noticed a bowl of Jello topped with whipped cream on the table. In an effort to be polite and respectful of the family's customs, I tucked into all three. They were also too polite to say anything until I was informed the next day that the Jell-O was supposed to be dessert. Oops!

When I was hired to work at Tamakwa, I never bothered to inquire about what we would eat throughout the summer. Now, looking back, I must say that after I got over my trepidation, the food in general was a very pleasant surprise. It proved not too dissimilar to the fare back home, well balanced and plentiful.

There were a few things, however, that amused, confused and downright scared me. For example, Fruit oops at breakfast time. What is it with them? A fruit loop back home is somebody that's a couple of sandwiches short of a picnic! Nothing as brightly coloured as that will pass my lips at any stage of the day, let alone first thing in the morning!



Syrup was another confusing one. The thought of syrup for breakfast is just bizarre, to say nothing of the terrifying quantities in which it's consumed at camp. I often found myself asking the campers: "Would you like some pancakes with your syrup?"

The most common meal at Tamakwa for many of the kids is good old fashioned PB&J which although not popular in Scotland is something in which I can see the merits and may continue to enjoy back home. What did shock me was to see the distinguished members of 49er-1 substitute the jam for a thick coating of sugar that I found scary.

The job done by Head Chef Guy Tetreault and his fantastic staff was quite phenomenal. They were unquestionably the hardest working group at Tamakwa, providing a remarkable 1,200 meals a day. To ensure that the meals are nutritious and not monotonous is a formidable task in itself, one that Guy copes with admirably.

Late in the summer, I spoke to Guy about camp food and offered him suggestions on how it could maybe be improved. I proposed that he begin by introducing such old favourites as smoked salmon, beef tenderloin and haggis. Guy seemed puzzled.

He responded with "Haggis? What the #%@*! (edited out for younger readers) is that?" I told him that it's the national dish of Scotland. Guy wanted to know more. I explained to him that it consists of sheep intestines ground up with oatmeal and pepper and cooked in the lining of sheep's stomach.

Guy looked horrified. Clearly disgusted by what I was telling him, he grabbed a paddle next to him and chased me out of the kitchen, screaming at the top of his lungs. All I have to say, Guy, is don't knock it until you've tried it. At least he didn't say no to the salmon and beef. Here's hoping for next summer folks!

Les we forget?

In 2004, Les Hartsman made Tamakwa history by being Program Director for six years. Here's how we know he's been on the job too long:

10. "Rock, Paper, Scissors? What a novel idea for an all day program!"
9. Guy Tetreault (Head Chef) starts impersonating Hartsy impersonating Guy, "Sehriously."
8. We had to build him a new cabin just to hold all of his hats.
7. "These are the days you've been waiting for; these are the days of repeating old all-day program themes."
6. He has started pre-recording, "We ha-a--ave a birthday in camp tonight!"
5. We all had to freeze our tushies sitting on the cold wet narrow Transportation Hill at 1:00 a.m., because it's the only place in camp he had not yet



4. He e-mailed in the entire block schedule before camp even started.
 3. "...and the teams are: the Bobble Heads, Hanging Fuzzy Dice, Plastic Army Men, and...Name Labels (all the items that Hartsy sells in his internet business). Sleep well, Tamakwans!"
 2. He has finally given up: "Alright, yes, there is Colour War this year! And, by the way, here's a tip: you'll want to be on the blue team!"
- And... the number one way you know that Hartsy has been Program Director too long:
1. We're all nostalgic for "Baby Day".

You don't say

A selection of famous quotes of the summer. Try to match the quote with the person who actually said it:

1. "What if they catch the wrong bear?"
 2. "Selfless; that's when you don't know yourself very well."
 3. "Since I was leaving for camp, I called my mother a month early to wish her a happy birthday."
 4. "Sehr-iousley!"
 5. "Why is my sign smaller than Jordan's?"
 6. "How come Jordan's sign comes before mine?"
 7. "We might as well not have a ball field."
 8. "What's the over/under?"
 9. "I heard it from Yafa Bale." (when asked about the credibility of a staff gossip rumor).
 10. "Manitou copied us; they have a bridge because WE have a bridge."
 11. "Do the boys own the dining hall because it's on the boys side of camp?"
 12. "Camp is my favorite place. It's got everything I need: a lakeside view and lots of bugs. I love bugs."
 13. "Anachnu ohavim et ha-makom ha-zeh."
 14. "How many security guards do you actually have here at camp?"
 15. "I dunno, Alaska, I dunno, Alaska."
- a) Seth Rogers
b) Lauren Diamond (aka "Chief Cheerful Chipmunk")
c) David Lazar
d) Guy le chef
e) Jeff Avigian
f) Jeff Avigian
g) Jeff Avigian
h) Jeff Avigian
i) Jenna Golden
j) Our intercamp athletes
k) Gabe Snider
l) Burt Binder
m) Eyal Mamistvalov and Chen Raz
n) Eyal Mamistvalov and Chen Raz
o) Singing campers using the "trump card" when they were stuck for the right answer in the State Song



Designed to last

Memories of 2004 may eventually fade but not this year's plaque.

This past summer, Lori Cohen took up the challenge of designing the 2004 plaque. She's the latest in a hallowed tradition dating back to Tamakwa's early days in the 1930s. Working closely with resident craftsman and ace woodworking master Ric von Neumann, Lori produced a lasting testament to Tamakwa's 69th year.

Few things at Tamakwa match the annual plaque for its iconic standing. Created behind closed doors every August, the plaque enjoys a pride of place at camp, preserved for posterity in the Dining Hall. Each year, as part of the crowning glory of the summer, a new plaque is unveiled amid great anticipation during the Closing Banquet. From then on, the plaque becomes the most enduring symbol of that summer.

Collectively, the 69 year end

plaques created since Tamakwa began, all ensconced on the walls and ceiling of the Dining Hall, help give a sense of continuity to life at Tamakwa. They're a fitting tribute to Tamakwa and all the campers and staff who have set foot there.

"My aim was to create a plaque for 2004 that would be



not only a memory for some but for everyone," says Lori. "When I looked at previous plaques, I saw that many had specific themes. I decided that for this year it would be more open-ended so as to leave more to the imagination of campers and staff and visitors."

In the end, Lori went with a simple, clean design. "Putting the Tamakwa beaver so prominently on the plaque was an easy decision," adds Lori. "It's what most represents the camp. I placed the logo over an array of leaves. For me, the leaves represent the beauty and essence of Tamakwa's natural setting."

It was a fitting choice. In keeping with its predecessors, the 2004 plaque is a creative expression of a place that inspires so many people, and whose message is timeless.

- ROBERT SARNER







The great camper of all good campers

To mark the 30th anniversary of Unca Lou's passing, Tamakwas who knew him pay tribute to the legendary founder and visionary who made this camp possible. BY ROBERT SARNER

I never knew Lou Handler but I wish I had. I never knew him but in some ways I feel as if I did. For everyone at Tamakwa, to varying degrees, Unca Lou lives on. Such was the measure of the man that today, 30 years after he passed away, his impact is still strongly felt at camp.

Since my first summer at Tamakwa in 2002, I've always loved hearing about Unca Lou. I've always enjoyed learning about his vision of camp, his love of the place, his unfailingly positive attitude to whatever life threw his way, his innate wisdom, his strong influence on people, his originality, his fortitude, his infectious spirit and his endearing idiosyncrasies. By all accounts, Unca Lou was a larger-than-life figure, an extraordinary person in the truest sense of the term.

If I'm sorry to have never met Unca Lou, I'm thankful for the privilege of my family and I getting to know his greatest creation -- Camp Tamakwa. As such, I feel a certain connection, even a sense of gratitude, to the man who inspired so many people in his day. And even to this day.

But don't take my word for it. Better to read what those who knew Unca Lou have to say about him. On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of his passing, I spoke to several people up in Algonquin who remember Lou well, most of whom are still at Tamakwa, and who are presented here in alphabetical order.

Their comments about Unca Lou are a testament of the magnificent person he was, a reflection of what Lou was to them and what he still is to so many people so many years later.

DAVE BALE

"When I think of Unca Lou, I think of his eloquence and the inspiring way he would talk about Algonquin Park," says Dave Bale, who first met Lou in his rookie summer as a Tamakwa camper in 1962. "By his deed and words, Lou made you realize what it all means for us to be in Algonquin Park and what's important in life. He'd show you a hemlock tree that is hundreds of years old or the pre-Cambrian rock that has been here forever and explain that the natural world has its own lifecycle that goes on regardless of our human daily concerns, and that in the scheme of things, our problems are fleeting. He put our lives in perspective in relation to the world around us.

"I found a resonance in Lou's lifestyle, his words and the way he would put things," adds Dave, who says he still thinks of Lou all the time. "At camp, some of the Lou-isms -- his phraseology and slogans -- still live on: like 'it's a golden day; a silver day; today is the first day of the rest of your life'. On a cold rainy day,

he'd say that's the time to reach down deep inside ourselves and draw on the sunshine and warmth we've stored up from all the golden days. We quote these words to the campers to this day. Some of it may sound corny but the meaning behind his words was a message of optimism and resourcefulness, reflecting his attitude of making every minute count and making the best of whatever cards you are dealt. Lou's thinking really had a profound impact on the way I look at the world."

MICHAEL BUDMAN

"Lou and what he created had a huge impact on me," says Michael Budman, who began attending Tamakwa in 1956 when he was 10. "He was a truly unique man in the best sense of the term. Lou was a leader, and he really led Tamakwa. He was a terrific icon and very much a larger than life figure because of his size and incredible presence. Lou always gave you big hellos. He greeted you really well.

"I learned a lot from Lou," adds Michael who spent 13

summers at Tamakwa as a camper and on staff. "From Lou and Tamakwa, I became a better, more well-rounded individual. I learned some of the basics of getting along with people, teamwork and camaraderie. I also learned a lot of skills that have carried with me all my life.

"Lou introduced me to Algonquin Park which ignited a passion in me for the place which continues to this day. Lou also loved the Park. Of course, he loved Tamakwa but unlike most of the people at Tamakwa, he saw the bigger picture in the Park. I got that from Lou.

"I had a lot of respect for Lou. He was such an impressive figure, a real renaissance man. He went to Michigan State University where he studied Forestry, was an athlete, a professional boxer and referee, a photographer, a violinist, a naturalist, an environmentalist, a raconteur, a pioneer and an overgrown boy scout. And of course he was also a camp creator and a camp director.

"Lou had a great enthusiasm about life. He had a lot of naiveté. Lou was far more interested in people, nature and the spirit of camp than in business. He belonged at camp. Lou looked out of place in the city. At the end of his days, Lou certainly wasn't motivated by the material world, but it's amazing how his name still lives on. He's had such a strong impact on so many people. When it comes to his legacy, I don't know of anyone who can really touch him. Even today, so many years since he passed away, his legend continues to grow."

MARILYN MENDELSON

"What always struck me most about Lou," says Marilyn, "is what a big heart he had in teaching people to look at every person as an individual, to give of yourself to whomever for whatever they needed. And to share all the good things of Camp Tamakwa with everybody.

"The greatest lesson I learned

from Lou was that everybody has something good to offer to everybody else and to look for that good in everybody," says Marilyn, who first came to camp in 1969, beginning her Tamakwa career as a secretary. "Lou was truly unique in that what was most important to him was people, and doing good things for people. Money didn't matter, possessions didn't matter, things didn't matter. He was a people person. He just wanted good things for people.

"Lou made his mark when you saw him, not just by his huge size but, more importantly, when you listened to him because he spoke from his heart all the time. Maybe his body is no longer at camp but his soul still is, and his thoughts and everything that he wanted camp to be are all still there.

"I still think of Lou all the time. Every place I walk at camp, he is there. Every time I see an animal, I think of Lou

who always said we are living in their house. This summer, we captured a bear at camp and it's sad because we're living in their house. That was Unca Lou's line. That we are sharing where they live. Actually, we've stolen their home from them.

"Everything we do at Tamakwa is what he wanted us to do, I hope. He wanted this to be a good place, and it still is."

VIC NORRIS

"Lou's impact on me and others at Tamakwa was enormous," says Vic Norris, who first met Lou when he hired Vic as a junior counselor in 1967. "The attitude he exuded changed many people's philosophies and perspective in life.

"Lou's way of seeing things was part of his magic," adds Vic. "Like the golden and silver day; that you can't have one without the other; that you can't revel in the good if you don't know how to accept adversity; that



there's good in a silver day as well as beauty in a golden day; that there are no problems in life, only challenges, and his getting up at the mic at the end of every breakfast and saying: 'Remember, this is the first day of the rest of your life, take advantage of it.'

"Those kinds of attitudes, which Lou lived and exuded himself, really captivated me. Over time, I've adopted those attitudes and used them in my own life. They were very powerful. They might have seemed corny or insignificant then but as I think of those attitudes -- about being flexible, about learning to be at comfort with adversity, at comfort with weather changes and the elements -- I realized how much they influenced me.

"Lou had an incredibly positive quality about him. Despite having far less resources than we do to run camp, Lou always made do. That was part of his essence. He just learned to make do with whatever the situation was.

"In his own life, he had some challenging personal situations, including poor health, especially in the last few years of his life. Yet, I don't recall Lou ever complaining about anything. He just always had that biggest smile from ear to ear, always had that laugh from that deep part of his belly. No matter what, he just found a way to enjoy Tamakwa and enjoy life and see the positive in everything and everyone. Often others would suggest Lou not allow a difficult child to return to camp. He would always say, 'Who am I to deny?'

"We often ask ourselves how Lou would have handled a situation. So many camp decisions are still guided by Lou's values and philosophy. I really feel Lou's attitudes changed my life, added to my life, enriched my life, and became a tenet of my life. We've tried to perpetuate Lou's attitudes as a fabric of camp and Tamakwa values that still live on to this day."

CAROL PERLMUTTER

"Lou's tremendous presence at camp had a big impact on me," says Carol, who met Lou during her first summer at Tamakwa in 1951. "It was not only his stature but his face. There was always something special about his face. He had this look about him. Although he was a huge man, there was a softness about his face that endeared him to everyone.

"His stature was just outstanding, as were his kindness to everyone and his love of Tamakwa," recalls Carol, "I always appreciated Lou's wisdom. He had an amazing way of teaching about his love of nature and how we should appreciate what we have and where we are and how fortunate we were to be here. He told the most wonderful stories and he loved Tamakwa so much.

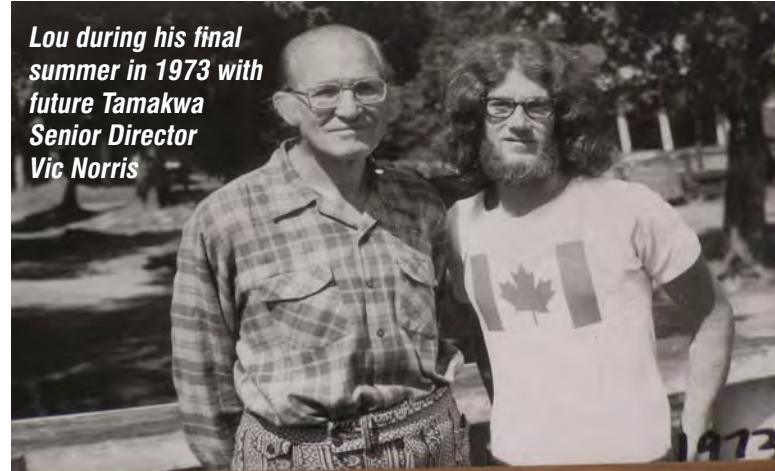
"Lou's death had an impact on camp, yet in a way it didn't. Of course he was no longer here and it was sad. But I think that everybody involved at camp wanted to carry on his legacy. Whether he was at camp or not, he was in everyone's mind, in every activity, in every service, in every special joke told, he was still here in all our lives.

"I still think of Unca Lou. I always have this vision of him, his incredible presence with his

plaid or Hudson's Bay jacket, horn-rimmed glasses, and his cigar."

HOWARD PERLMUTTER

"Lou's demeanor with the campers was the most infectious part of him," says Howard, who spent his first summer at Tamakwa in 1955 when Lou hired him to be a tripper. "Lou really wanted to do right by children and to make Tamakwa an important,



Lou during his final summer in 1973 with future Tamakwa Senior Director Vic Norris

memorable experience in their development. I've subscribed to that philosophy ever since.

"Lou was a very dominant figure but not domineering," adds Howard who bought the camp in 1980 to help preserve what Lou had created. "Lou was a big man, tall, well-built, with big hands and when he walked into a room people took notice of him. In addition to his size, he was a charming guy with a wonderful personality.

"I often look at the plaque in tribute to Lou on the Dining Hall porch and think about his presence at camp. We still think about him when planning for the next year and making certain decisions. We try to be faithful to what he created and to his legacy and to have the same consideration for our surroundings as Lou did.

"In our rebuilding of camp we've tried to maintain the Park spirit at Tamakwa. It is definitely embodied in Lou and his love for the outdoors and the Park itself."

LIBBY SADICK VON NEUMANN

"One of the things I learned from Lou was to get along with everyone and to try to help out," says Libby, whose first summer at Tamakwa in 1973 was Lou's last. "He was always present at camp, he was always around, always involved. From the perspective of the 12-year-old I was then, Lou was a huge, tall man. But he was a nice, gentle giant.

"Early on that summer, I was amazed to discover that Lou knew my name," says Libby who since then has spent 32 summers at Tamakwa working at countless roles at camp. "I have no idea how he knew my name and it blew me away. At the end of the first Friday night service, as Lou was greeting everyone, he said to me: 'Shabbat Shalom, Libby.' I was shocked he knew my name. I was a little nobody from Trenton, Michigan. Why should he know my name? It's one of those weird things that when you're a kid you don't expect people to know your name.

"Lou's philosophy stuck inside my head and is one of the reasons I've been back here every summer since then. Sometimes I wonder what Lou would think of Tamakwa today but it's impossible to say. I would like to think he would approve."

RON SHERMAN

"Lou's knowledge and love for Tamakwa and Algonquin Park greatly influenced me," says Ron, who was a camper and longtime staff member at Tamakwa. "Thanks to Lou, I've an even better appreciation of the Park and its incredible serenity and beauty and the revitalization that I get every day jumping in the water here.

"Lou's sincerity and passion for being at Tamakwa had

perpetuated his history and tradition in a magnificent way. Two guys couldn't have done it any better than the way they've carried on his legacy, staying true to what Lou created."

DAVID STRINGER

"Lou had an amazing attitude," says David, whose father Omer Stringer, was with Lou in 1936 when the two discovered the site on South Tea Lake to create Tamakwa. "Lou liked everybody. He even liked people that many others didn't like. He thought everybody and everything were great.

"One time, I pulled a shreck that involved turning the entire trip shed into a psychedelic wonder. We thought we'd get into trouble but Lou loved it. He had a great sense of the absurd. He always saw the lighter side of everything and could point it out.

"Lou's presence and influence really live on at camp, a lot longer than many people would have expected," adds David, who has spent almost every summer at Tamakwa since he was 2 years old. "Somehow Lou put his mark on all of us. We agreed with his vision and still do."

"The world has changed, people have changed, popular culture has changed, and Tamakwa has inevitably moved along with it but not as much as one might think. There's still very much a core of Unca Lou at camp. His presence has lived on a lot longer than I would have guessed."

RONNIE WEISS

"The greatest lesson I learned from Unca Lou was the love of people," says Ronnie, who first met Lou as a young camper in 1952. "Lou always looked for the good in people. He always found a positive side in everybody. That to me is a big part of what

made Lou so special. Thanks to Lou, there was no one who couldn't fit into the Tamakwa family. He made sure everybody felt good about everybody else. That's so important in life.

"Even the strangest people always had their place in the Tamakwa family under the philosophy that Lou put forth and the way he ran camp. There was a strong family feeling among all the people, including staff and kitchen people. Everybody was accepted into the family and that was an important thing in my life.

"That is the way I try to deal with people," adds Ronnie who spent 26 summers at Tamakwa, finishing as Program Director in 1977. "When my children might make a comment, as young kids sometimes will, about someone they consider strange, I correct them and tell them that everybody has their attributes. That comes from my experience at Tamakwa with Lou.

"Lou just loved kids and camp. For him, business was just a means to an end. He was so in love with Algonquin Park and really wanted to share it with other people in Detroit and Toronto.

"He was such a great believer in the value of canoe tripping which taught me so much. I learned about fortitude, which is what tripping is really all about. I discovered how it can make you mentally strong, that you can get anything done and live with nature and do anything.

"I learned so much from Lou. My being, my lifestyle today, what I do, keeping healthy and fit -- so much of this is because of the influence that he had on me, some directly, some indirectly by just being at Tamakwa.

"I still think about Lou every day. I miss him so much. For me, Lou was the great camper of all good campers."

My Uncle Lou's legacy

Few people in this world can say they were the nephew of Unca Lou. STUART HANDLER can and he's thankful for it.

Unca Lou was my real uncle. My father, Max Handler, my aunt Esta (Kraft) and Lou were brothers and sister. They were a very close and loving family. In addition, Lou worked with my father and aunt in the family business, National Coal & Oil Co., based in Detroit. As a result, Lou was around me, my brother, Wally, and my sister, Cheryl, all the time.

Lou would often come to our house after visiting potential new campers and their parents in the evening. He would always be trudging along his ponderous projector, screen and cans of camp film. Although he was tired after working at National Coal during the day, he would still regale us with stories about his journeys that night.

I can remember his exhilaration when he would tell us he had a signed application, or a promise, to send a kid to camp. Lou followed this routine most evenings and weekends week after week throughout the year except for summers when he was at camp. His drive was



Lou at the stern with Omer Stringer in the bow

relentless. When Lou talked about Tamakwa, you could not help but get caught up in his enthusiasm and the passionate conviction of his beliefs.

In the beginning, selling first-generation American and Canadian Jews on spending a few hundred dollars to send their

kids to a summer camp far from home for two months -- there were no split sessions back then -- was extremely difficult. But after the first campers came home after the summer and began telling their stories, word got around about Tamakwa and Lou's "night" job became much easier.

Nevertheless, there were many lean years during the period he owned and operated Tamakwa. Camp was his entire life but not everyone in our family fully understood or embraced it as he did. To him, his vision was very clear. To many others, he was an impractical dreamer.

At the end of his life, Lou left behind hardly any material wealth. What he did leave behind as a legacy, however, were thousands of adults whose lives and character were permanently and so positively changed by their experience as kids at Tamakwa.

I believe that Unca Lou knew this would be the result of all those evenings, weekends and money that he could have made but instead devoted to realizing his dream.

And on the seventh day...

The amount of talent appearing on the Tamakwa stage on Saturday evenings is truly staggering. By ROBERT SARNER

If there's one constant at Tamakwa—come to think of it, there must be one hundred of them—it's the remarkable talents that campers and staff bring with them every summer. Some of the names and faces may change from year to year but the high level of talent varies little. Beyond their athletic prowess and many artistic skills, Tamakwans demonstrate an incredible presence when they take to the stage.

Tamakwa plays are one thing but an hour and a half of non-stop song, dance and comedy is quite another. Take the first month Talent Show, for example. At 8pm, I joined the rest of camp at the Rec Hall for this always much awaited event. It's a tradition dating back to the early years of Tamakwa.

Some 20 separate acts, representing virtually every age group at camp, performed in the show. All at their own initiative, all to the delight of a wildly appreciative audience. A few days before, Program Director Les Hartsman told the camp there'd be a talent show on Saturday. He invited aspirants to contact the two MCs. This year, David Diamond and Dan Doubilet coordinated the production, adding a major D factor to the MC combination.

Every Saturday evening,



the spotlights shine on the Rec Hall stage as it comes alive with the sounds and sight of youthful creativity. Every 14 days, it's a camp play. But on alternating weeks, it's another thing altogether. Sometimes it's called Talent Show, sometimes Tamakwastock, sometimes Saturday Night Live, sometimes a Cabaret. The name doesn't matter. It's just a pretext for all that Tamakwa talent to respond to the casting call.

It would be hard to find a more supportive crowd than Tamakwans assembled in the Rec Hall on a Saturday evening.

Campers and staff sit on long wooden benches before the hallowed stage rich with history. Through the years, it's hosted many a future star, including Gilda Radner, Chevy Chase, Amy Sky, Sam Raimi, and Mike Binder. The cry of "How-How" never seems more apt at Tamakwa than when the audience screams it out enthusiastically amid wild applause after each act. In my three summers at Tamakwa, I've attended many such evenings. I never quite know what to expect by way of specific acts. But I do know, based on experience, that I will be well entertained. I do

know that the level and variety of talent will be impressive. I do know a good time will be had by all.

Such was the case again this evening. The 90-minute show kicked off with an hilarious interpretive dance number by Senior Boys dressed as Senior Girls. Between introducing acts, the "Quadruple D" MCs delivered a steady flow of comic banter and brief skits that had a hard time matching the level of the performers.

Young campers almost stole the show, as Trailblazers and Foresters provided some of the most memorable acts. First of those was Brenna Gildenberg who sang Getting to Know You with tremendous poise and melody. Fellow Trailblazer Gabi Stone performed an equally stunning solo rendition of Tomorrow from Annie.

On a different note, Ranger Jesse Gold brought the house down with the most original act of the evening. Accompanying himself on guitar, he performed a number called Nose Whistle. The refrain did justice to the song's title, as Jesse drew on his nasal passages to emit a most unusual sound. I still haven't figured out that one.

More conventional but equally impressive were CIT Brittany Danzig's acapella performance of My Immortal and fellow CIT Allie Gordon's rendition of Ben Harper's Diamonds on the Inside with superb musical backup from guitarists Ivan Adelson and Dan

Doubilet and CIT pianist Mike Ran.

Perhaps the most poignant moment of the evening was a duet by the Stringers; Dad David on piano and son Alex on saxophone. They played a medley of jazz classics. If you consider that the name David Stringer is synonymous with Tamakwa music, then you can imagine how proud Dad was to be performing in the Rec Hall—a place that he has filled with ragtime and musical pizzazz for four decades—accompanied by his incredibly accomplished 12-year-old son Alex.

The show concluded with a particularly memorable free-style rap by David Diamond involving four volunteers from the audience.

As remarkable as the Talent Show was, just think of what it might have been had all the Tamakwa talent been in camp to draw from. With so many canoe trips out and various staffers on day off, a quarter of Tamakwans were not in camp.

Tamakwa founder Lou Handler was a big proponent of such talent shows. He himself was a great showman, often playing his violin or his "clackers" before the camp. His legacy lives on with the extraordinary level of talent on view at camp every summer. It's a fitting tribute to Unca Lou that the place he created 70 years ago continues to nurture and showcase the creative talents of so many young people. But that always was, and still is, one of the main objectives of Tamakwa.

How does a custom become a tradition? Why does a certain shtick take hold at camp and become a hallowed ritual year after year? How long does it take for a specific practice to develop into a full-fledged tradition? What is about Tamakwa that so many traditions have become such an inseparable part of camp life? Why are Tamakwa traditions so inviting?

These were some of the questions I asked myself after the Shabbat service conducted in mid-July by the boys of Ranger 6 and Voyageur 4. They chose tradition as the theme for their speeches at the Slope and their words got me thinking.

All camps, of course, have traditions. They're part of what makes camp camp. They're part of what gives continuity to camp life. They're part of what gives a camp its identity.

Tamakwa is steeped in traditions rooted in its own great history. Camp founder Lou Handler deserves much of the credit for instilling the original sense of tradition at Tamakwa. He also originated many of the customs which decades later still resonate with a third generation of campers and staff.

Thinking of traditions at camp, I wondered if an exhaustive list of such Tamakwa customs had ever been compiled. Seems not. In consulting the veterans at camp, I concluded that a definitive guide to the time-honoured practices that help so much to define Tamakwa was long overdue.

So, in the interests of posterity and setting the record straight, here is the first-ever collection of Tamakwa traditions. It's the result of many minds taking stock of such things. No one person could think of them all. Special thanks go to Vic Norris, David Bale and Ron Sherman. Hats off also to the Ranger and Voyageur

Tradition, tradition!

Often taken for granted, it's the venerated traditions that make Tamakwa a cut above other camps. By ROBERT SARNER



boys, each of whom chose a different tradition to present at the Shabbat service. Their selection is integrated into the following list that presents Tamakwa traditions in no particular order:

1. Assembling at the Slope
2. Welcoming all canoe trips when they return
3. Plaques in the Dining Hall
4. Friday night services
5. The Treasure Island swim
6. The Harvey Deutch Triathlon
7. The Woof Woof chant
8. The "Sterning Report" and the send-off of canoe trips
9. The signage around camp
10. The ringing of the bell
11. The pointers (transport boats)



12. Flag raising every morning
13. C.A.M.P. Radio
14. Beaver Council / Tamagama
15. Marilyn's announcements in

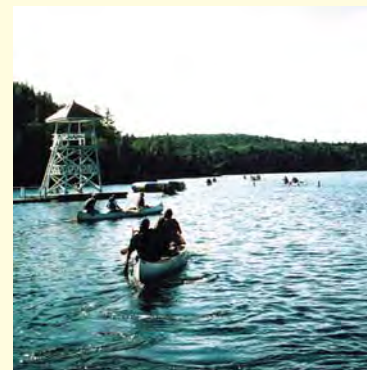
- the Dining Hall
16. Monday morning sleep-in, brunch, and cookouts
17. Telegrams (and visit) from George Hirsch
18. The bugle played at flag lowering
19. Drama Night (plays and talent shows)
20. Amy Sky Songwriters Night
21. Saturday Night Live
22. Invoking Unca Lou's legacy
23. The reciting of The Cremation of Sam McGee
24. The Lone Pine and rounding the bend
25. The call to eat: Come and Get it!
26. David Stringer's special effects breaks to kick off Colour War
27. Fake breaks
28. Camp nicknames
29. Camp Bar Mitzvah (13th summer at camp)
30. Puns in camp place names
31. Tamakwa terminology
32. Shrecks
33. Dirty Dog
34. Jumping off the tower at swimming
35. Pastafazool
36. Tapping the Lucky Log
37. John Fiddes
38. Camp enhancement (C.E.)
39. Singing Taps
40. Fire by friction
41. Medley Marathon ending with water boiling contest
42. Reading of the 23rd Psalm on Friday nights
43. Voyageur canoeist award
44. Shore lunch!
45. The Peach Pie joke
46. Nemesis Can in the office
47. Beaver Cuttings newspaper
48. Long canoe trips (8 days to 18-days)
49. Can-Am staff baseball
50. Tootsie Frootie (mid-day fruit snack)
51. Grilled cheese and tomato soup
52. Schlechter of the Year
53. TamakwaGram newsletters
54. Carving Log
55. Main office always left open
56. Staff basketball and staff hockey games
57. The "Hello Hello Hello" welcoming song
58. The "Old-Tamakwa-spirit" song
59. Marilyn
60. Unca Lou's words of wisdom that still live on (ie: "Always leave a campsite in better condition than you found it"; "We are the visitors, here, not the animals living here", etc.)
61. Intercamp competitions
62. Shmutz of the Year award
63. Tamakwastock and Tamakwapalooza
64. Z machine
65. Take the jacket and run
66. Skinny dipping at Robbie's Point and Beaver Dock
67. Super Snack
68. Wakonda and his famous



- special powers
69. Liquid sunshine
70. Marge the Barge
71. The war canoe
72. The totem poles
73. Friday evening Hobby Hubs
74. Confiscating hair dryers, food, and other "forbidden objects"
75. Appreciation for Algonquin Park
76. Shepherd's Pie
77. Sing Songs in the Dining Hall
78. Golden Days, Silver Days
79. Tuck Shop line-ups
80. Colour War
81. Banquet Night
82. GSM's (general staff meetings)
83. Kitchen Raids
84. The Terrific Laundry Service
85. Saying "How How"

Long live these great traditions. This list may be exhaustive but it's surely not definitive. Inevitably, certain traditions have been overlooked. Then, there's the philosophical dispute over what really constitutes a Tamakwa tradition. For example, how many more years do we have to publish the South Tea Echo for it to graduate to the status of a Tamakwa tradition?

For all its fidelity to the past, it wouldn't be fair to suggest that Tamakwa is only about tradition. Fortunately, it also knows how to innovate, keeping up with the times in the right manner. It's the perfect mix. We wouldn't have it any other way.





Talkin' about my generation

Some things really do run in the family, in 2004 more than ever.

Sachse is playing basketball; Guindi got a B canoeist; Hermelin raided the kitchen; Sofferin, Kelman, and Farber are doing great on their long trip resupply; Silverstein is starring in the play; Aronovitz won a tetherball tournament, Lavine pulled a shreck, Binder is on C.A.M.P. radio; Curhan won in tennis; Folbe, Golden, Schecter, and Seel have to do "camp enhancement", and Arons lost in horseshoes. 21st or 20th century? That exact scenario could have taken place in the 1970s. (That's not completely true; Arons' dad never lost in horseshoes.)

But other than that, it's déjà vu all over again at Tamakwa these days. Second – and even third – generation Tamakwans are nothing new, but in 2004, there seemed to be more than ever. The names are the same (except for the many alumni moms whose kids now bear their married names); only the faces are different (and even the faces are pretty similar in many cases).

See for yourself. In July, we assembled all the campers and staff whose parents or grandparents were also Tamakwans in the past for a group shot at the Slope.

- DAVE BALE

Could that be...?

You never know who you might see next disembarking from the pointer

One thing about Tamakwa, it often attracts big name guests, and not just on Visitors Day. This past summer, as has been the case in many previous years, some big names have pulled into camp for a brief stop.

Sometimes it's under the cover of darkness with no advance notice so as not to attract attention or create commotion; sometimes it's in the light of day with campers and staff tipped off ahead of time. It all depends on who's making the visit.

In July, a high profile delegation paid a brief stopover at Tamakwa while spending a long-weekend at Bonita courtesy of Michael Budman. Famed actor/comedian Dan Ackroyd, TV producer Larry David creator of Seinfeld, and environmentalist Bobby Kennedy Jr. of the legendary Kennedy family came to camp to watch the production of *Beauty and the Beast* in the Rec Hall. Most of the camp did not realize who was in their midst during the performance and by the time word got around who in camp, the celebrities had already left.

As for his part, Larry David made a return visit during which he enjoyed speaking with campers and staff and was much in demand to pose for photos at the Tamakwa totem poles.

- DICK YONDER



TV producer Larry David proved a big hit during his visit to camp

Higher notes

What would Colour War 2004 have been without the team anthems? Unthinkable...



For all the athletic and other grueling physical achievements of Colour War, spirit is no small part of the competition. Each team strives for extra points through its animated, invigorated way of showing it has more heart and soul than its rivals. One way is through the creation and singing of the team song.

We can't really give you an idea here on the page of how each song sounded, especially as performed acappella by a group of screaming, hoarse-voiced campers, but we can give you a sense of the lyrical quality of the team anthems. They were an intrinsic part of the summer, the unofficial soundtrack of Colour War '04. Unfortunately, we only have space for one of the four songs.

PRIVATEER COLOUR WAR SONG

Captains: Matthew Pascal and Stephanie Gooel

Free from traffic jams and demands
Onto the shore into welcoming hands
A little girl with golden-matted locks
Sees him for the first time
on the dock

He offers quiet company
And she slowly begins to see
With four scraped knees and
laughing eyes
On one another they begin to rely
CHORUS:
Close your eyes
for the time draws near
The space between us will disappear
Although I age
with the winds of change
I'm waiting to grow young again
The two shared a first kiss
As a shooting star fell into her eyes
Never feel alone, he said
We're all looking at the
same blue skies
Reading her thoughts as if they
were his own
Defining themselves as they grow
Sailing through time as tides roll
On these shores they both were whole
CHORUS:
With summer's goodbye
a tear rolls down her cheek
And she begins to softly weep
He whispers to her as they
uncross hands
A friendship that can end
never truly began
If the shores always kept
in close range
The scenery will never change
An open heart's a ship at sea

A new tradition takes hold continued from page 2

reflecting the events and stories of the most recent summer while keeping generations of Tamakwans connected to a place so dear to all of us.

Speaking of being connected to this place called Tamakwa, most of the wonderful photographs featured in the *Echo* are the work of Libby Sadick von Neumann. As generations of Tamakwans well know, Libby is not only our resident photographer, and for that matter has held almost every position at camp imaginable, but she even resides at camp in Algonquin Park on a year-round basis with her talented husband, Ric von Neumann.

And so, it is with great pleasure and largely as the result of the hard work and devotion of Robert Sarner that we are pleased to publish and provide all of you with Issue 3 of the *South Tea Echo*, yet another Tamakwa keepsake. Hopefully, after three years of history, the *Echo* will become a perennial Tamakwa tradition, like so many other great camp traditions that have been kept alive for some 70 years. Enjoy this issue from cover to cover... 'til we meet again.

Vic Norris, Dave Bale, Craig Perlmutter (Publishers)

A season of change continued from page 6

commitment to Camp, its staff and its campers. During the latter three years, Craig has overseen much of camp's day to day and year round operations including the daily camp-life during the summer.

Craig, and his wife Margot, have made the ultimate commitment to Tamakwa and its future and are both thrilled to now be mainstays in Tamakwa's landscape and future. The Perlmutter tradition continues as Craig's parents, Howard and Carol, have their own history at Tamakwa as campers, staff and past owners. Craig, having just completed his 16th summer, and Margot, who spent 10 summers as a camper and staff member in the 80s and 90s, both possess the love, energy, and enthusiasm for Tamakwa, its history, its traditions, and most importantly its future. In his column on page 6, Craig has written a personal note of his own sharing his feelings about this milestone in his life.

My own commitment to camp remains unchanged and I embrace my new partnership with Craig. This transition will be seamless in large part because of the continued commitments and skill of Tamakwa's administrative team (often referred to as our "inner

generational camp providing a unique life experience for children to have fun, safe, and adventuresome summers for many years to come.

As we are all aware, Unca Lou and Omer Stringer shared a dream, one they fulfilled by creating and establishing this place we call Tamakwa. This dream has been kept alive by many people, enabling many more to share, enjoy and learn from it. We thank Dave for helping to keep the dream alive for so long and look forward to having Craig continue and enhance the dream for the next generation.

On behalf of the entire Tamakwa family we wish Dave and his family the best of luck in his future endeavors and thank him for his loving, caring, nurturing, "cheek-pinching" days at Tamakwa. However, I am certain we will still be blessed with sharing many Tamakwa golden days with Dave and his family, particularly his children who will remain campers for many years to come.

TAMAKWA CLOTHING AVAILABLE
(LIMITED SIZES ONLY)

OUR CLOTHING WILL LOOK BETTER ON YOU
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for details on what clothing items are available and download an order form:

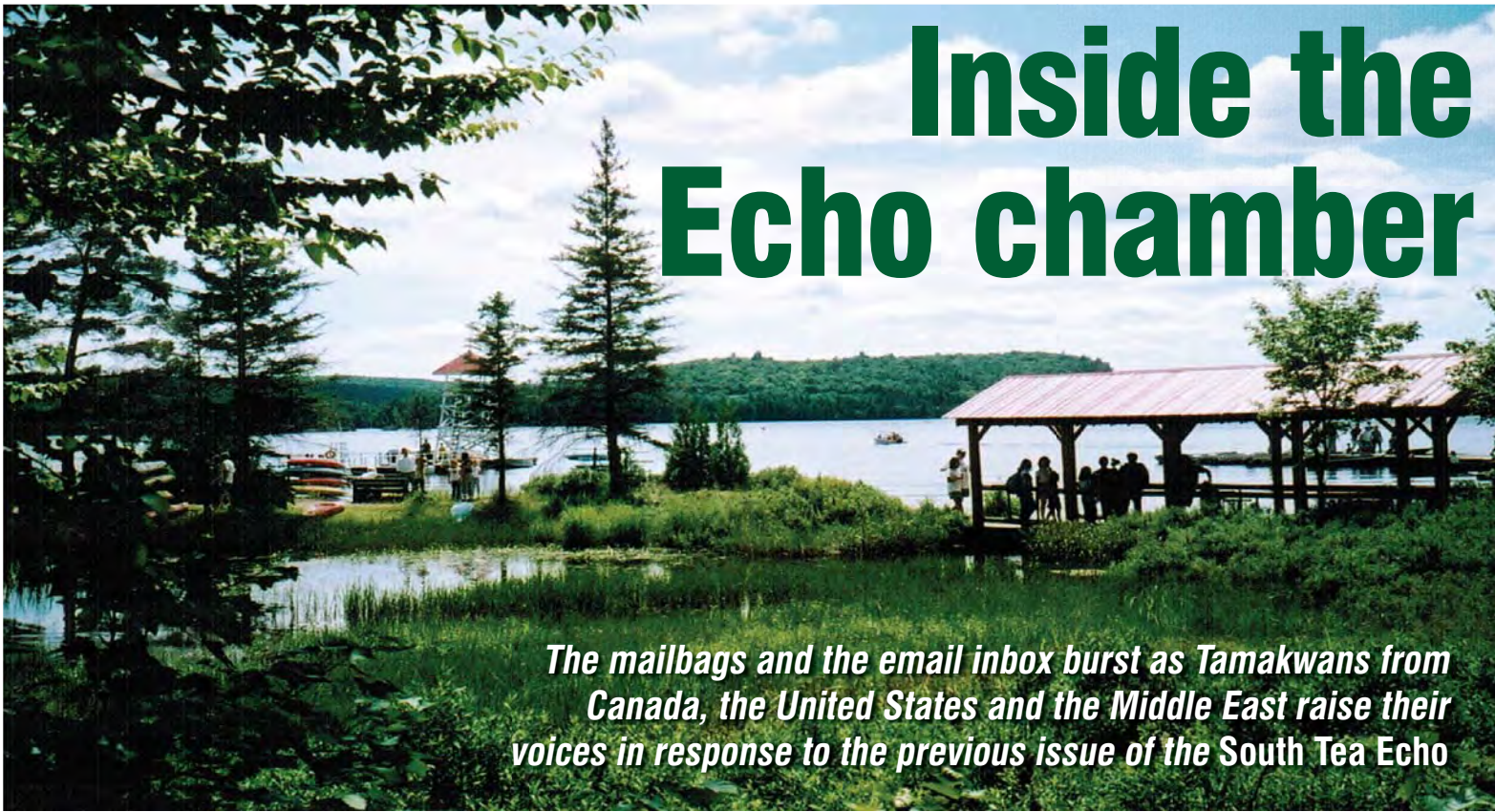
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so don't be disappointed if certain items are sold out.
We cannot re-order items to fill these orders. Sorry.

Allow 3-6 weeks for delivery.

If you have any questions, e-mail us at howhow@tamakwa.com

Clothing for 2005 will be available at select Roots stores in the spring

Inside the Echo chamber



The mailbags and the email inbox burst as Tamakwans from Canada, the United States and the Middle East raise their voices in response to the previous issue of the South Tea Echo

THE ECHO HITS HOME

Just wanted to say that the *South Tea Echo* is a really great newspaper. It's so nice to see such beautiful pictures of camp and to catch up on new and old stories about Tamakwa. I hope that all is well with the Tamakwa team to whom I send love and kisses from sunny California.

Rachel Zimmerman
Los Angeles, California
rachelzimmerman@mac.com

DIAMONDS ARE A CAMP'S BEST FRIEND

We came home from school today and couldn't be happier to see the *South Tea Echo* waiting for us in the mailbox. While flipping through it, we came across great pictures and articles that brought back many amazing memories of the summer. However, we were very curious about one item entitled "All in the family".

It featured a photo of the Stahl siblings standing next to tripping docks. The accompanying text said "the Stahls were the only family so well represented at camp in 2003, with four from the same clan."

We would like to set the record straight. In 2003, the Diamond family was the most represented family at Tamakwa with four represented from one family, three from another, and one from two families to total nine Diamond Tamakwans who all attended for two months. (The above does not include two

Diamonds who are not in the family).

Karen Diamond
The Diamond Clan, Toronto
diamondks@sympatico.ca

ECHOES OF PRAISE

Not to be redundant but I wanted to add myself to the list of *South Tea Echo* admirers. This year was my first time seeing the newspaper and I was very impressed. You know the publication is good when it actually gets you thinking that maybe I should cancel the teacher training program in California this summer and just go to camp. Like why not be a counsellor for JTs for a couple of months and live the simple life?

I wonder if these thoughts ever stop passing through the heads of other former Tamakwans. Maybe when I have kids I'll stop daydreaming about abandoning my life to go back to camp. Then I think of my mom and realize this probably isn't the case!

Anyway, I just wanted to send you guys a big how for a job well done on the *Echo*.

Jessica Robertson
Toronto, Ontario
bessiemail@hotmail.com

MAKING CONNECTIONS

So I receive this very slick and colorful newspaper called the *South Tea Echo*. Yeah it's about camp and yes while I was at Tamakwa for only a few summers, the experience does stay with you. How can it not...if you are young with the freedom of

summer being the best part of the year, and you are spending it in Algonquin Park. If you embrace it, something special happens. It's not just about the place but it's also about your fellow campers, staff and the experiences (both the good and bad).

In the "Claims to fame" article on page 19, I was able to identify with [not that I've any special claim to fame] some of the connections there. One of the things that stays with you after being at Tamakwa is the beauty of Algonquin Park. You develop a special appreciation of nature and its wonders.

I remember a Friday evening Sabbath service at the Slope that was briefly interrupted when someone (I believe it was Unca Lou) pointed out that a satellite was passing overhead. Years later, an astronaut would look down from space and see that there was this very special place on earth that had a magical beauty, at least from space, that he had to explore as a possible home one day upon his return. That place is Leelanau County, Michigan, and that former astronaut is Jerry Linenger. That is now my home as well and it was while he was on the Mir space craft that he saw this special place. Maybe it's not quite as special as Algonquin Park, but I think the appreciation for what we have in Leelanau County is derived from lessons learned on the shores of South Tea.

Of course, everyone knows of

former Tamakwan Chevy Chase and one of his SNL pals Gilda Radner who I had the fortune of meeting during my camping days at Tamakwa. She was a sweet, wonderful girl, full of life and happiness while at camp. In later years, I watched her successful career develop and then one day, a little of me also passed away as she did far too early in her own life.

Senator Carl Levin also has a fondness for not only Algonquin, but Leelanau County as well. He effectively stopped a very significant, unnecessary development that would have destroyed a unique river and wetlands with special environmental features. I think we all understand where a lot of Carl Levin's values developed.

So the connections are those lessons that we've all learned on the shores of South Tea and while tripping through the Park. Those lessons continue and are passed on to future generations of Tamakwans and will often carry over into their lives. They are the same values that earlier Tamakwans learned, along with character, which will develop as today's Tamakwans pursue their own accomplishments of camp and its challenges.

Eric Winkelman
Glen Arbor Township, MI
wink2020@earthlink.net

QUICK, GET OUT THE PADDLE

Please keep my subscription to *South Tea Echo* intact. What a breath of fresh air it is for me. When my copy arrives, I collapse and become nearly incapacitated by nostalgia.

I was a counselor at Tamakwa from 1949 until 1952, so you can understand how long my memories have been alive. I'd like to find out whether I can still paddle a canoe in the skillful manner that the sainted Omer Stringer taught me. He realized that I could not continue to swamp canoes for much longer and be believed to be a counselor.

The *Echo* is very well written -- downright entertaining -- and the photography is splendid. The only cure for my desire to fully appreciate some of my most cherished memories is to come to Algonquin Park with my wife Evelyn, at a future Alumni Post Camp session.

Thanks so much for giving us such a "good read".

Dave Kreger
Oak Park, Michigan
Davekreger@aol.com

KING ON WHEELS

While reading through Issue 2 of the *South Tea Echo*, I was stopped in my tracks by the fascinating article "Easy Rider". Joe Grondin's remarkable voyage by bicycle to Tamakwa from Windsor, Ont. must surely be applauded for determination and stamina but as writer Robert Sarner noted in the piece, Joe was not the first staff member to bicycle to camp in Algonquin Park.

For the record, Charlie King bicycled to camp, not in the 1970s, but in 1936, the year the road into the Park was first opened. Indeed, he was the first cyclist to enter Algonquin Park. It took him three days and several flat tires to make the trip from Whitby on Lake Ontario to Canoe Lake.

Entering the Park Gate, Charlie (then 17-years-old) confounded the ranger who was obligated to charge a fee for all "vehicles" entering the Park. Charlie convinced the ranger that a bicycle was not the type of "vehicle" the law had in mind, but as he mounted his bicycle, the ranger spied Charlie's fishing equipment and informed him that there was a fishing license fee.

Charlie replied: "A guy's gotta eat" and the ranger waved him on, gratis. The Park road was not paved and Charlie had to walk his bicycle from the Park Gate to Canoe Lake. Charlie's full story can be heard on tape if you go to the Park Museum and ask to hear the account of this incredible adventure. I should know -- I'm his son.

Paul King
Jerusalem, Israel
samorai@012.net.il

A BIG HOW HOW...

I have been meaning to write you for months, ever since I received Issue 2 of the *South Tea Echo*. I want to thank you for making the *Echo* possible and for sending it to me every issue. The content is splendid. From the picture-perfect photographs to the beautifully written, well-documented articles, it's a great package. A big how how for such an excellent initiative. Keep it going.

Lyn Frankel
Vancouver, BC
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The *South Tea Echo* welcomes letters to the editor from readers. Please send correspondence to 161 Eglinton Ave. East, Suite 501, Toronto, Ontario, M4P 1J5 Canada or to howhow@tamakwa.com. A selection will be published in the next issue. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

CAMP TAMAKWA
70TH ANNIVERSARY
POST CAMP CELEBRATION

Since 1936, thousands of campers and staff have enjoyed their summers at Camp Tamakwa. Each of us has warm memories of our time spent on the shores of South Tea Lake, on canoe trips, playing sports, completing artistic projects, singing in camp plays, competing in Colour War and much, much more.

Now is the time to come back and celebrate our 70th camp season with your fellow Tamakwa alumni.

Return to beautiful Algonquin Park to relive your childhood and create new memories at Tamakwa.

POST CAMP 2005
Thursday, August 25 to Sunday, August 28

Please refer to www.tamakwa.com/alumni.htm for more details or contact us at howhow@tamakwa.com

Guess who! Place a face from way back



DEJA VU? Who's that in the vintage photograph on page 4? Answer: The little guy with the serious look sitting in the middle is Charlie Kraft (aka father of current-day Tamakwans Emily and Jenna) with his mom Esta Handler Kraft (former Tamakwa co-owner) and his dad Mike.

Beaver cutting (Holly)wood

Lights, camera, ...rest hour. BY DAVE BALE

The way Lisa (Weinberg) Spector tells it, she was simply having lunch in a busy restaurant near her home in L.A. when a casting agent came up to her and asked if she'd like to be in a movie. Turns out the guy was casting for Punch Drunk Love. For the film's family party scene he needed extras who could pass for relatives of the film's lead, Adam Sandler. They needed more than just one, so Lisa recruited her sister Mia Weinberg, cousins Karen (Hermelin) Borman (with daughter Maddie) and Julie (Hermelin) Frank, and even Lisa's son Mason Spector.

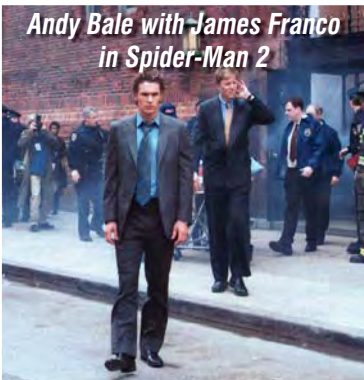
In their family's case, the film biz came knocking on their door, but in one cinematic moment, they immediately entered the world of... Tamakwans in the movies. In the tradition of Gilda Radner and Chevy Chase – who humbly rose from Tamakwa's Rec Hall stage to the silver screen – many others have made that journey with varying degrees of fame.

As a camper in the 70s, Sam Raimi always knew how to create a scene and spin a tale. Today, he can create a scene like no other Hollywood director. Sam's Spider-Man flicks have broken box office records. His filmography as a director is lengthy – *A Simple Plan*, *The Gift*, and *For Love of the Game* – to name a few. Since his first "cult classic" *Evil Dead*, he's often paid homage to camp in many of his films by placing a Tamakwa prop somewhere in the scenery. Watching *Spider-Man* the first time was like solving a "Where's Waldo" puzzle, trying to spot the Tamakwa shirt.

In *Spider-Man 2*, Sam's Tamakwa icon isn't a WHAT; but rather a WHO. Two Tamakwans appear in the movie. Sam's brother Ted Raimi played "Hoffman" – the nervous assistant to Jameson, editor of the Daily Bugle – a reprise of his same role in *Spidey 1*. Ted was a camper at Tamakwa in the 70s, together with Sam and their older brother Ivan Raimi, who has co-written a number of Sam's films



Ted Raimi in Spider-Man 2



Andy Bale with James Franco in Spider-Man 2

and has acted in *Darkman* and others. But Ted is the actor in the family, with over 50 movies and TV shows to his credit. You've seen him in *Clear and Present Danger*, the TV series *Hercules*, *Xena*, *Seaquest*, and much more. The other Tamakwan in *Spider-Man 2* is my own bro, Andy Bale, who was at camp in the 70s as a counselor and Landsports Director. Andy is a radio DJ in New York in real life, but his "reel" life includes roles in Sam's films *Army of Darkness* and *Darkman*, and bit parts in *When Harry Met Sally*, *Ghost* and others.

Of course, no story about Tamakwans in the movies is complete without Mike Binder, who did what no Tamakwan has ever done: capture the whole camp on celluloid. *Indian Summer* was one of his first films, but he's done so much more since he wrote and directed his cinematic homage to Tamakwa in 1992. Look for his newest film, *Upside of Anger*, starring *Joan Allen* and *Kevin Costner*, due for release in March 2005. Mike wrote and directed it, and also plays a role. Those are also his credits in *Man About Town*, currently in production starring *Ben Affleck* and *Rebecca Romjin*. And you can still catch reruns of his acclaimed HBO

TV series, *Mind of the Married Man*, which he wrote, directed, and starred – with his character often seen in a Tamakwa shirt. The other film biz camp alumni in Mike's family are his brother Jack Binder, who has produced most of Mike's films, and their cousin Sue Binder, who has worked for Sam Raimi's production company *Renaissance Pictures* for many years. Mike's Associate Producer is another Tamakwan, Rachel Zimmerman.

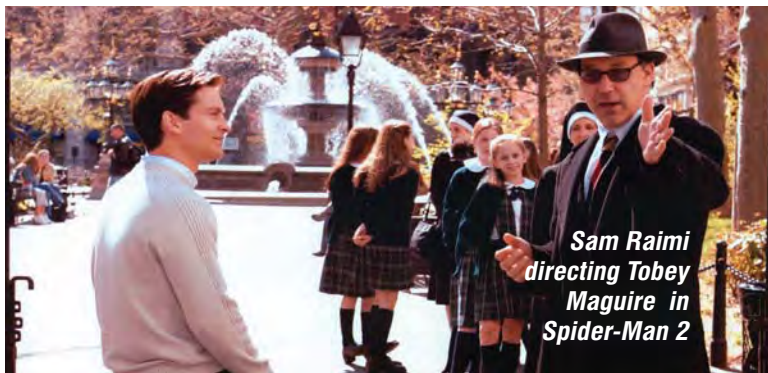
Ruth Marshall was a camper and later Tamakwa Drama Director in the 80s. Her film-acting debut was in 1992 as the lead in *Love and Human Remains*, a film by Canada's Oscar-winning director Denys Arcand. Ruth also appeared in *Dolores Claiborne* and *Waiting For Michelangelo*, she was a regular character in the TV series *Doc* and *Wild C.A.T.S.*, and has had roles in other made-for-TV movies.

Warren Zide – a shriek loving camper in the 70s and 80s – turned his flare for the spectacular into a profession. As producer of *American Pie*, he put a Tamakwa T-shirt on the guy who forever changed the way we look at apple pie. We still don't understand why the title *Peach Pie* wouldn't do. But Warren knows best and proved so with the sequel *American Pie 2*, followed by *American Wedding*, *Cats & Dogs*, and *Final Destination 1 & 2*.

If you remember a "Spot of Humour" as a morning Dining Hall ritual, or "The Black Diamond", then you remember "Goody", aka David Goodman. Goody was a Tamakwa icon in his own right from the late 60s to early 80s, and part of the *Raimi Renaissance Pics* "family". Goody has gone out on his own as a screenwriter and producer and is currently making the film *The Man With the Screaming Brain* starring *Ted Raimi* and *Bruce Campbell*.

Shauna Robertson's camp days go back about 15 years. She got her start in film helping with the set design for *Indian Summer*, a springboard for her current career as producer of *Anchorman* and *Elf*, both starring *Will Ferrell*.

Now, we don't claim to have a Leonard Maltin on staff to definitively archive all alumni in film. We probably missed a few. But we welcome any and all updates for future *Echo* coverage of other accomplished "Cinemakwans", which is Algonquin for "Beavers cutting (Holly)wood".



Sam Raimi directing Tobey Maguire in Spider-Man 2

Shalom Tamakwa continued from page 4

national contingents in a long time, surpassing even the Mexican group this year. Outside of the four participants in "Project Israel-Tamakwa", the other Israelis came to Tamakwa on their own through the normal channels. Regardless of how they got here, with such size the group added their own unique impact on the Tamakwa community.

Certainly the camp made a significant impact on them. All of them came with a basic knowledge of English and the intention of improving it even more. And sure enough, they went home with an expanded English vocabulary, including useful terminology like "How How", and "Biffy", and "Kasaya Kasay".

Project Israel-Tamakwa has been good for everyone: An original and welcome respite for the Israeli kids, as well as a learning experience for the North American campers, who were able to put human faces to what is otherwise newspaper headlines. Based on the success of the past two summers project, the camp's owners still hope to continue it in the future.

"Having this Israeli presence at Tamakwa has been a great exchange for everybody," says Vic Norris. "For a camp community that has such a strong Jewish following and shows such tremendous support for Israel, we wanted to reach out and bring over some Israeli kids who have had to live through difficult times. Just by being here and being themselves, the Israelis have added an important dimension to the summer for everybody at Tamakwa."



Camp without a price

Many adjectives could describe Post Camp at Tamakwa but for the most recent installment, one word sums it up best. BY MATT EGRIN

True to form, true to tradition, true to the promises advertised in the months leading up to the big weekend, Post Camp 2004 was, in a word, priceless. But why believe me? Everyone in attendance agreed. At least those I asked. The verdict was near-universal. This was one issue beyond debate, one subject around which all were united in their praise. Post Camp 2004 was priceless. Let me count the ways.

There's nothing like Tamakwa in late August. Wakonda was with us all the way. On Thursday, our first night, we saw folks in shorts and T-shirts and Indian squaws in bikini tops on the bottom of the Slope for a traditional "Noonway" ceremony, Post Camp style.

The next day, the rain luckily held off until after the annual Post-Camp softball game. The sun finally broke through just in time for a fantastic gathering at the "Schmooze" on Girls' Hill. Clear skies continued and a bright full moon took us through our traditional Friday night services.

Saturday afforded us great wind for windsurfing and sailing. It also made for a spirited water-boiling contest. One of the day's highlights was the Talent Show evening program that



featured an amazing show of sisterhood from the "Happy Isle" Post Camp Girls rescuing one of their own from the humiliation of the "table caper," once again expertly performed by Shmutz and Hartsy. You want talent? Have we got talent to spare!

In keeping with Post Camp practice, Tamakwans from every decade returned to South Tea to see old friends and relatives, to relive old memories and of course make new ones. We had Matt and Jessie Felsot, Jason and Jeff Hillman, Michael and Craig Perlmutter and Donna-Jo and Steve Sofferin siblings playing together as well as father-and-son teams including Larry and Josh Levite and Jamie and Aaron Zimmerman.

I personally will never forget the blissful 2.5 seconds of silence we had while on the barge. And Donn Resnick braving the elements alone on his annual hike to Drummer Lake while Robert Radner and Uncle Bob Stein turned around and headed back to camp (you guys made of sugar or something?).

It was great seeing all the recent improvements in camp as well as the old landmarks. Kudos to the Tamakwa engineering staff for the continued excellent work and dedication to the place we all love.

It takes the participation of all of you to make Post Camp happen year after year. Next August will be here sooner than you think. Tell your friends! Spread the word! Let's keep it alive in 2005.

Please email us (craig@tamakwa.com or huevos@ameritech.net) with your questions, comments or suggestions so we can continue to make Post Camp a great time for all.

ALUMNI & FRIENDS HAVE WE GOT NEWS FOR YOU!

But to get it, you have to update your information including postal address and e-mail address by visiting our website.

Young folks, old folks, alumni, campers, parents, and staff: Please complete the on-line form by visiting the following link: www.tamakwa.com/alumni-update.htm

By the way, our website is just like being at camp. Go to www.tamakwa.com and you'll need a mouse to get around as there isn't a pointer to take you all over nor a windsurf board to surf the site. You'll experience the SIGHTS (updated slide-shows, 2005 calendar, new camp glossary, songbook, monitor wallpaper, recent Tamakawa-grams, and our camp brochure); the SOUNDS (Tamakwa sound library), and the SMELL (well, you'll have to imagine that) of camp. It's lots of fun, loaded with information, and full of nostalgia. We've added more archived information including past issues of *Beaver Cuttings* and the *South Tea Echo* and we hope to add more throughout the year. We've also added a section for clothing sales. Please see the ad on page 13.

The website is a great way for you to refer new campers, new staff, and new off-season groups to Tamakwa.

So, what are you waiting for? You're still reading? While sitting at your computer, you can have your very own Free Play at www.tamakwa.com



You can't stop the Green Machine

One of the great ties that binds Tamakwans is Intercamp. In 2004, these annual sporting events reached a new level. BY STEPHEN SHORE

Mom, I gotta tell you, today was incredible." That's yours truly in a letter to my mother addressed August 5, 1996. It was the second session of my senior boy summer, and I remember writing the letter from my bottom bunk in the corner of the Bayview cabin. I can imagine that I was lying on my stomach, exhausted to no end, as the 'incredible day' that I just 'had' tell my mom about was Intercamp.

There are many ties that bind Tamakwans young and old. In the modern era of Tamakwa (what I kindly refer to as A.L.; After Lou), one of the strongest ties that connects campers is their memories of their Intercamp competitions. On these special

days, Tamakwa campers pack up their paddles and let down their sails to pick up their baseball gloves, and lace up their basketball shoes. Tamakwa's canoeists, sailors, actors, and kayakers become athletes. And, my, what fine athletes they are.

The origins of Intercamp are unclear, but its development in recent years is well documented. Every summer, Tamakwans travel to and are visited by camps as close as Arowhon (a mere one hour paddle from South Tea) and as far away as Walden (three hours by bus). We've ventured south to Camp Tamarack and north to Camp Manitou. What began as a once-a-summer venture has grown exponentially over the years. This evolution

reached new heights in the summer of 2004 as Intercamp took centre stage. During the August session, there were five separate Intercamp competitions on the camp schedule over a one-week period.

The growth of Intercamp has resulted from a new approach to the competition. The previous model combined all sports and all ages on one day. Campers, from the youngest to the oldest, would compete side by side. The new version splits the age groups up such that some days are exclusively the domain of the older campers, with others reserved for Tamakwa's younger athletes. The challenges presented by Tamakwa's extensive tripping program made these changes necessary but the impact has been positive. It has allowed for the spotlight to shine on more of Tamakwa's fine athletes

This past summer, Tamakwa boasted one of the strongest Intercamp teams in recent memory. With this talent came performance. With this performance came victory. The boys basketball team gave new meaning to the word "blowout". A solid inside game complemented the timely outside shooting, and its shutdown defense frustrated its opponents to no end.

On the diamond, the softball teams combined ferocious offensive power and stellar defense to obliterate its opponents without mercy. Both the Ranger baseball team and the 16-and-under team were undefeated this summer. Their class and their spirit in victory were more notable than the final scores.

The inline hockey teams featured some heroic performances that turned what could have been a disappointing summer into one to be proud of. Likewise, the volleyball, sailing, tennis and swimming teams represented Tamakwa well as they always have. Also of note this summer were the introduction to the Intercamp schedule of archery and climbing wall.

The Intercamp season of 2004 was memorable for its success, but even more so for its reminder of the class and character of the Tamakwa spirit and values. The camp's rallying cry, "You know You Can't Stop the Green Machine", resonated even louder on the playing fields of Intercamp. Considering the impressive performance of Tamakwa's athletes this summer, it would be fair to say that nowhere were truer words spoken.



Tamakwans compete at Arowhon in a variety of water sports



Tamakwa delegation leaves South Tea Lake in war canoe en route to a productive day of intercamp at Arowhon.

Adding to a great legacy

If Tamakwa's tripping program has remained largely unchanged over the past 70 years, its impact on campers has not. BY LEN GIBLIN

As we prepare to mark Tamakwa's 70th summer, it seems only natural to consider all of the changes that have occurred in camping over the years.

Unquestionably, there have been many changes and innovations in almost every area in camp, but it's interesting how much in our canoe tripping program has stayed the same.

To be sure, Tamakwa's canoe tripping program has evolved over the years. There are more trips -- about 100 -- each summer. There are longer trips, some up to 18 days in length. And most importantly, there are more and more campers and staff wanting to go on longer trips.

We continue to explore

share a common experience with the children of that generation. The simplicity of a canoe trip is perhaps more important now than ever. It's a connection to the natural world for sure, but also a link with our past - to a simpler, less hectic life.

As we prepare for each summer, we always plan new things, constantly seeking to expand the boundaries of our tripping program. But on the most fundamental level, we will be doing what we've always been doing. Trips will depart from and return to the shores of South Tea Lake just as they have done for the past 70 years. We will explore all corners of Algonquin Park. We will paddle the Otterslides up to



new areas with a well trained and qualified tripping staff and better equipment. Despite these upgrades, has the essence of Tamakwa's tripping program changed radically since the camp began? Was a canoe trip last summer much different from a trip 20, 40, or even 70 years ago?

The answer is: no, not really, at least not in any significant way. The experience and the process remain essentially unchanged. Thousands of Tamakwans have explored the waters of Algonquin Park over the years and whether a trip was in 2004, in the 1980s, the 1960s or even earlier, we all share a common canoe tripping experience. It's always been, and always will be, about the paddling, the portaging, the campfire, the swimming, the friendships, the hard work, the fun, the bugs, the sun, the rain, the wind, and of course, the salami. But mostly it's about doing it together. Our group, our cabin did it, and we did it together. Canoe tripping will always be about that.

When one considers how much our world has changed over the past 70 years, it's remarkable how similar camp, and in particular, the canoe trip experience, has been for children. It's a common experience that binds generations of Tamakwans together. In a world where life today bears little resemblance to what it was in the 1930s, it's a testament to the special nature of camp that kids today can

Big Trout. We will be taking a swim in Kiosk. We will be going down the Petawawa River. We will be camping at the Natch Rapids. We will be going to Brent. We will paddle through the Baron Canyon. We will be on Happy Isle. Our JTs will take their first ever canoe trip to Ragged Lake as my son did last year. We will paddle Opeongo.

We will return to camp as conquering heroes. We will do all that and more - and we will do it together.

We will do all those things because we have always done those things. And whether you did them 20, 40 or 70 years ago, it just doesn't matter. Some kids are going to do those things for the first time in 2005 and they will become a part of a great Tamakwan tripping fraternity.

There's a long legacy and strong tradition of tripping at Tamakwa and this summer we will certainly be adding to it. It is always our goal to provide the best possible program for the kids. We want them to get out there and experience everything that a Tamakwa canoe trip can be. We want them to have fun, work hard, succeed, and feel like they have really accomplished something as part of a group. We want them to explore, just like thousands of Tamakwans have done before them.

- The writer is the head of Tamakwa's tripping program